

THE  
VOICE of the PEOPLE:

A COLLECTION of  
ADDRESSES to His MAJESTY,

AND

Instructions to Members of Parliament  
by their Constituents,

UPON THE

UNSUCCESSFUL MANAGEMENT of the present  
WAR both at LAND and SEA;

And the ESTABLISHMENT of a

NATIONAL MILITIA.

Recommending, in particular, an Enquiry into the Cause  
of the late great Loss which this Nation has sustained,  
in the Capture of MINORCA by the French.

WITH

A PREFACE in Defence of the ADDRESSES,  
as constitutional, decent, and necessary.

And he hearkened to the Voice of Israel: and said to one  
who had charge over the city; go through the midst of  
the city, and set a MARK upon the foreheads of the  
men that sigh, and that cry for all the abominations that  
be done in the midst thereof. And to others he said; go  
ye after him through the city, and smite; let not your  
eye spare, neither have ye pity: but come not near any  
man upon whom is the MARK. My princes [ministers]  
shall no more oppress my people."

NUMB. ix. and EZEK. ix. and xiv.

L O N D O N:

Printed for J. PAYNE, at POPE'S-HEAD,  
in PATER-NOSTER-Row.

M DCC LVI.

Thursday December 9th, 1756.

## A D V E R T I S E M E N T.

**T**HE publisher thinks it proper to declare, that the paper called "Instructions to the right honourable Lord Down and Sir Conyers Darcy, Knight of the Bath, representatives in parliament for the County of York," and inserted in page 34, is spurious, and an imposition upon the public: but the fraud was not discovered soon enough to exclude it from this collection, which was intended to be a genuine memorial of the complaints, expectations, and resolutions of the people in the present critical state of public affairs in this kingdom.

RPJCP

EXTRACTS FROM THE ADDRESS  
ON THE LOSS OF MINORCA.

## \* P R E F A C E.

**M**ANY arguments have been used to shew, that the addresses on occasion of the late disgraceful loss of MINORCA, are unconstitutional, indecent, and unnecessary. But without giving up the principles of our present establishment, they cannot be censured as unconstitutional. Our form of government having no other end than the security of our public and private rights, every act of the government, or of the people, is constitutional, which tends to the same end, and pursues it by means consistent with the form and spirit of our constitution; and every act of the government, or of the people, which violates, or tends to violate, our public or private rights, or to defeat the means of supporting them, is unconstitutional. But have the complaints of the people, which are sent up to the throne, a tendency to violate any rights of the people, or any of those rights which are vested in the crown for the sake of the people? or do the people, by complaining, assume a right which they have not? Whoever maintains this doctrine against all complaints in general, mistakes our constitution; whoever maintains it, against these complaints in particular, must shew, that the complaints are irregular, and the language of them indecent.

IT is said, "that the address of parliament is the only regular address from the people." The people have, indeed, authorised their representatives in parliament to make laws, grant money, and support their rights. But they have not transferred their rights themselves, nor alienated the sense of feeling; nor given up the important right of expressing what they feel: and the sense of parliament was very lately influenced

\* The reasoning contained in this preface, is taken from a pamphlet lately published, intitled, *Considerations on the Addresses lately presented to his majesty, on occasion of the loss of MINORCA. In a letter to a member of parliament.* Printed for M. Cooper, in Pater-noster-row; which is distinguished by extensive knowledge, strength of argument, elegance of expression, and uncommon decency and candour.

fluenced and changed by the sense of the nation, with respect to the law for qualifying Jews to be naturalised. The gracious reception, however, which the addresses from the people have met with, sufficiently obviates all arguments against their regularity.

BUT it will be asked, "As the number of addresses is very small, how shall we gather from them that the discontent is general?" The addresses themselves are not the only evidence of discontent. Men of all ranks and capacities, of different opinions and different interests, will concur in telling you, that the grievance of the nation is of such a nature, that nothing can be said to magnify, and nothing need be said to explain it. We have lost our figure in the eyes of Europe, together with a valuable possession; and it is universally apprehended, that our ALL is in danger, and therefore the preservation of it not to be left in the same hands that have conducted us to the precipice. When this is the case, is it a proper answer to a complaint, to enquire into the regularity of it? and when every individual lifts up his voice, is it a time to ask, how the voice of the nation shall be known? Was the voice of the nation to be gathered only from the number, and not from the subject of the addresses, how easy would it be for a factious minister to perplex this sort of evidence to his master, by procuring counter-addresses from corporations, who act under an influence foreign to that of their own judgment. If then the addresses speak the sense of the nation, upon a national point, they stand justified with respect to the constitution.

BUT these addresses are further charged with "indecency and disrespect to his majesty."

THE loss of MINORCA must have appeared to his majesty in a more melancholy view, than to any of his subjects. He had declared war in confidence, that his servants would leave nothing undone to make him victorious over his enemies; that their care would extend to all parts of his dominions; that the enemy's designs would be discovered by the earliest intelligence, and prevented by the wisest counsels, or defeated by the most vigorous measures. Immense supplies were granted by parliament for this purpose; the British navy was never so formidable; and, instead of fearing a disgraceful loss, there was room to hope for a decisive national advantage. From this disposition of the king, thus supported by parliament, we may judge how his royal mind was agitated, when it appeared, that the enemy had been encouraged to invade MINORCA by the

the known weakness of the garrison of Fort St. Philip; that we had no fleet in the Mediterranean, when the descent was made; that the fleet which was sent, was inferior to the enemy's; that it was sent too late, under a commander who had not been tried; that it executed nothing; and that the brave governor of the garrison, for want of succours, was obliged to surrender.

HITHERTO then the addresses stand clear of the charge of indecency: the king's own sentiments are not contradicted by them; and the condolence which they express, implies his majesty's character as the common father and protector of his people.

BUT we are told, that "to call for vengeance upon those who have not done their duty, is prescribing to the crown; and expressing a jealousy, that full justice will not be done."

IF indeed Mr. Byng was the only object of this petition for justice, it might be said to imply an apprehension, that the misconduct laid to his charge would be connived at. But Mr. Byng is not mentioned, and barely hinted at in the addresses. It was not the interest of the public, however it may be the interest of individuals, to condemn him unheard: his trial must take its regular course; and there is no very great room to apprehend that the public will be dissatisfied with the issue of it. But the persons complained of are not so easily called to a trial as Mr. Byng; and the complaints are in a great measure foreign to him. He cannot be answerable for the deserted state of the garrison, before he was sent to relieve it; nor can he be expected to account for the unseasonable time of his departure, nor for the inferiority of his fleet. If he should appear to have been unfit for the command, he may suffer for having undertaken it. But if he was not a person of distinguished courage, as well as fidelity, which is not yet evident, it is unaccountable, why he was selected for the command of a fleet, which at the most was so nicely proportioned to the strength of the enemy, that a victory must have been effected either by chance or by uncommon courage. The case was yet worse at fort St. Philip. There was confessedly the highest military merit; but so infamously neglected, that the garrison was barely strong enough to shew that the fort was not offered to the enemy, however the enemy might think himself invited by the condition of it.

THE mention of a MILITIA was neither indecent nor impertinent. The independency of this island disappeared,

when

when foreign succours were imported for our defence: and it was, therefore, pertinent to subjoin to a complaint of the defenceless state of that part of his majesty's dominions which is already cut off, a desire to see the kingdom defended by those who are most interested and best entitled to defend it: and it was decent in subjects to offer to defend their king.

THE subject then of the addresses stands clear of the charge of indecency; and the language, if candidly considered, will appear equally unexceptionable.

THEIR are now offered in one view to the public; and the public will see, that they abound with such professions of loyalty, that no enemy to the king's person or government could, with any consistency, sign them. His majesty's paternal care of his people, his impartial justice, his study to promote the welfare and honour of his kingdoms, and his great and martial spirit, are, in all these addresses, proclaimed with zeal, and acknowledged with gratitude.

How is the language with respect to ministers? Not injurious, nor opprobrious, nor personal, for no particular minister is hinted at. There is great amazement expressed, that a design should be unprevented, though it was not unexpected; that an attempt so weak and rash as that of the enemy, should be converted into victory and glory; whilst this nation is covered with reproach and dishonour. It cannot be denied, that the attempt was expected; and all Europe knows, that it was neither prevented nor defeated. Is it indecent to express amazement at this, and to lay our fears and wonder before the throne, the refuge of distressed intimidated subjects? not intimidated by the enemy; but by the power of those, who might have prevented this evil; who left the island defenceless, and the Mediterranean without a British fleet. These are plain facts, which, without the help of language, amount to strong accusations. Nor did the natural consequence to be drawn from these facts, need any support from vehemence of expression. It is therefore only submitted to his majesty, to direct an inquiry, to enforce the punishment of those, who shall be found guilty of giving up the public interest and honour, and to withdraw his royal countenance and protection from all, who have not at heart the safety and happiness of Great-Britain. Neither the power, nor the character of a good minister can be affected, if all these petitions succeed. If any minister is conscious of having made no misrepresentations to his master; of having applied the millions which have been granted, purely and judiciously, to national purposes; of having undertaken no more than he had abilities to execute; of having used

## P R E F A C E.

used the utmost dispatch, in all matters relating to the service; of having removed none from his master's service, who were eminently qualified; of having advanced none, without other qualifications than merely their dependance upon himself; and of having been intent upon objects of more immediate consequence to the nation, as well as more practicable, than the perpetuity of his own power, and the unnatural support of his particular friends; he is not stigmatized by these addresses.

BUT "all this," it will be said, "is inflammatory." It is not more inflammatory than the facts were, before any address was presented. There is a complaint, indeed, of mismanagement and delays in the defence of his majesty's possessions in AMERICA, the object of the present war, and the principal source of the wealth and strength of these kingdoms; but not a word is said of the progress and toleration of the French incroachments during the peace. These and some other points, which are full as inflammatory as the loss of MINORCA, are passed over in silence, to avoid even the appearance of exaggeration.

THE charge of sedition is a trite one, against all public complaints. The best foundation for the charge is, to shew that the complaint is groundless. The friends of the government are complaining, not of imaginary evils; nor of direct oppression; nor of such calamities, as no government can remedy; nor of a misfortune which affects only one set of men, or one part of the kingdom: but of an event which dishonours our arms, and wounds our trade; and of those who certainly foresaw it; and, if we may judge, from the money granted, and the armaments raised, had power to prevent it. Is it seditious to lay this before the throne? A good minister will not think it so; and a bad one would have no right to cast the reproach; for if there be any truth in history, or if any argument may be drawn from experience, there is not a more seditious character in a kingdom, than a bad minister.

I HAVE hitherto endeavoured to do justice to the addresses, by shewing, that the constitution is not violated; that the king is not disrespected; and that the nation is not inflamed by them: the only point remaining is to shew the necessity of this step.

THE idea of necessity in the case is, that they were meant to answer one or more constitutional ends, which could not be answered without them. The first is, that they were intended to profess to the king the discontent of the nation. The event upon which this discontent is founded, was quite new to the people of Great-Britain. Nothing like it had befallen us

us since the sale of Dunkirk ; and that sale, infamous as it was to our councils, was not disgraceful to our arms. It was besides very inauspicious, considered as the beginning of the war ; and the more so, as it could not be imputed to chance, or to any superiority of power in the enemy. Our trade to Italy, and to the Levant, lost the best security it had, in being deprived of a harbour for the British fleet ; and the piratical states of Barbary must be very faithful and disinterested allies, if they continue to pay any regard to British colours. These causes of national discontent were inclosed in the dispatches which brought to his majesty the news of the surrender of Fort St. Philip. But still it was possible for those, who had no reason to be satisfied with themselves, to represent, that the nation was perfectly satisfied with the measures that had been taken, and only regretted the event as a misfortune ; that all the public clamour was directed to Mr. Byng, as the only person chargeable with misconduct ; and that no murmuring would remain when once he was sacrificed to popular fury. As such a representation might possibly be made, there was a necessity to obviate it ; for it is not founded in fact, and it has a dangerous tendency. The people are not satisfied with the measures that have been taken ; they do not consider the event as a mere misfortune ; and though Mr. Byng has been loaded on all sides with great reproach, yet he is not the sole nor the principal cause of our public disgrace. The danger of misrepresenting these truths is, that the necessary enquiry must be obstructed, if they lose any of their force : and by what means could these truths reach farther than the public, whilst the very men who had an interest in disguising them, had at the same time power to carry on the disguise ? Hence it was necessary to have recourse to the solemnity of addresses, not only to guard against what was barely possible, or merely suspected, but against what was more than suspicious by being natural.

IT was necessary on another account, as the only means, at the time, of preserving the public peace. An unusual ferment had been raised, by general disappointment, suspicion, a sense of national reproach, and a dread of impending ruin. The most candid constructions that could be put upon the event, were those of negligence and ignorance ; and these are sufficient, when so clearly evidenced, to dispirit, to confound, and to enrage the people. History will tell us what follows, when a whole nation is in such a state of mind. However indefensible the excesses of a multitude may be, we read, that when

when they are aggrieved, especially in a point in which every man has an interest, the honour of his country, they are not easily restrained from excesses. It was thought expedient to give a direction to this rage, by pointing it at the accused admiral; and the stratagem succeeded so well, that he narrowly escaped an execution without a trial. But notwithstanding the success of this low cunning, which at once excites pity indignation and contempt, the truth could not be destroyed. Millions of rational beings could not for any time be kept upon a wrong scent, in an affair, in which the discovery of the truth did not depend upon argument nor deep reflexion. And as men who have missed their way, will double their speed, when they return into it; so a whole nation, whose zeal has been misled, will apply it, with increase of acrimony, to the right object when discovered. But the addresses, and his majesty's answer to that from the city of London, suspended the public rage. They could not, indeed, remove the discontent; that must be left to a fair and public enquiry: but they prevented a discontent which was certainly well grounded, from breaking out into unwarrantable action.

BUT these addresses were necessary, to revive a spirit of liberty in the nation; to convince those, who were secure in their power, and in a neglect of their duty, that the people are not so indifferent to public good, as to be silent spectators of public ruin. There may have been some foundation for the contrary opinion. The friends to the present establishment have passed over many instances of misconduct. They were unwilling to disturb the reign of a good king; and, through excess of candor, were diffident of their own judgment, when they could not but foresee the present inglorious state of the kingdom. The authors of our misfortunes had abundant reason to rely upon this temper of the people: they therefore hazarded unconstitutional measures; for some men were ready to support, and some were weak enough to applaud them. Great-Britain, however, has been found too weak for the support of any interest in the Empire; and the first British possession which the enemy attacked, was not in a state of defence. Had the nation borne this event, with the same passive silence with which they endured the progress towards it, perhaps that silence might have been alleged as an approbation; or at least a minister might have said, with some ground, that the loss of MINORCA is a trifle. How effectual the interposition of the people will be, must be left to time: but it was necessary, though it should not succeed; since there is not an epidemical disease more fatal to a nation, than a prevailing disregard to public good; an object, in which every individual has an interest

interest, and which, if the majority agree to neglect, they will infamously forward the work of those few, who agree to destroy it.

IT was necessary to revive a spirit of liberty, in such a beginning of a war. Liberty cannot survive the strength and wealth of the nation; and these are at stake when war is declared; but especially when the present strength and wealth are misapplied, and the resources fall by neglect into the enemy's hands. And how can a spirit of liberty be revived with more decency and propriety, than by addressing the throne with humble complaints? Clamor and violence are not the means of reviving it with success. Parliament, indeed, might have done what these addresses anticipate; but the parliament was not sitting, when fort St. Philip was taken: and as this progress to national ruin was too rapid for delays; so there is not a season more favourable for kindling a love of country, after that passion has been almost extinguished, than the very moment, when the minds of men are inflamed by a public loss and disgrace. But many artifices are used by those who have done wrong, and are in danger of accounting for their misconduct, to efface the useful impressions made by a public calamity. The first artifice, that of denying the truth, is, if it succeeds, the most effectual. But it happens unfortunately for the authors of our disgrace, that they are disarmed of this weapon. The fact cannot be denied, that fort St. Philip was not sufficiently manned, when it was attacked; and that, if it had been completely manned, the siege must have been raised. The fact cannot be denied, that there was no British fleet in the Mediterranean, when the enemy landed in MINORCA; and that if there had been a sufficient fleet, well commanded, the enemy could not have landed, and might have been destroyed. The facts then being too stubborn to bend even to the power of a minister, the next refuge of art is to reduce the whole, from the most important event that has befallen the present generation, to an affair of no great moment; and before the time of inquiry comes, we may hear the loss of MINORCA dwindled into a matter totally indifferent, or perhaps improved into a public blessing. Very little of this sort of reasoning suffices for men, who would give up their country for their peace or their emolument. Lest, therefore, the public interest should be wholly given up by the means of such arts, it became necessary to address the throne betimes, with a solemn authentic complaint; and to supplicate inquiries into the causes of an event, amazing in its progress, and ruinous in its consequences. The admiral, I must repeat it, is not the only, nor the principal cause. The loss of MINORCA was almost inevitable before he sailed;

failed; for it is not clear, that if his conduct had been unexceptionable, the siege would have been raised. As so much of the truth is glaring, notwithstanding the cobwebs which have been drawn over it, by encouraging the cry against him, the addresses were necessary, to obtain an inquiry into other causes, into the misconduct of other men; lest they should deceive their master and the public, and flatter themselves, by an opinion, that the condemnation of the admiral is all the satisfaction expected.

ON these several accounts then, the addresses were necessary at the time, so far as they respect the loss of MINORCA. Two other articles were judged necessary; one of which is the complaint of mismanagements and delays in the defence of AMERICA; and the other, the general well-grounded desire of a MILITIA.

IT is universally known, that the danger of AMERICA was very little regarded, till the French had fortified themselves upon our territory; that the little opposition, which was made to them last year, was chiefly made by the natives; that this summer an insufficient force was ordered thither, and foreign officers to command the four battalions of foreigners not yet raised; but the commander in chief was detained here, for reasons not understood, till it was too late for any chance of success in this campaign. That this, therefore, is an interesting complaint, will not be denied, though these were the only grounds to support it; and it is a necessary complaint, for it could not reach the throne at the time, if the people had not presented it; and unless it did reach the throne, it could not be redressed at the time; and the advices we continue to receive from AMERICA too plainly shew, that a complaint of this kind required immediate redress.

IF a MILITIA has been represented as disagreeable to the nation, there was great necessity, considering the manifest utility of the scheme, to signify to his majesty the popularity of it. The immense expence of our regular forces, and the danger to our peace and liberties from the introduction of foreign troops, are sufficient to create very uneasy apprehensions in the minds of the best-disposed subjects, even though no other method of defence could have been suggested. These uneasy apprehensions have been considerably heightened by a prevailing rumour, that these troops have already occasioned such an outrage upon the laws and constitution of this country, as our ancestors never tamely acquiesced in, even before the bounds of prerogative were precisely ascertained. If the fact is true, it is a matter quite indifferent to the public, upon what motives this step may have been taken, whether of clemency or of rigorous

justice; or what were the other circumstances of the case. The civil magistrate knows no power superior to that of the laws: public confusions have been occasioned heretofore by dispensing with them; and ministers have recognized, on the scaffold, the danger of advising such dispensation.

The honourable and powerful motives to fidelity and bravery in a MILITIA, need not be urged in defence of that measure, after such an attack of our constitution by foreign mercenaries. If it be true, the precedent is of so gross a nature, that it will be very difficult to protect the instruments of it; and to obstruct the unanimity, with which the nation will solicit the dismission of troops, so much better qualified to invade, than to defend a land of liberty; especially as a more natural defence is offered, of which the expence will not exceed one-fifth of the sum now expended for our defence. No disinterested man can hesitate in his choice; and the case is so plain, so free from the intricacies of political projects in general, that it is not an easy matter to mislead men's judgment upon it. Even most of those, who objected to a MILITIA, professed their approbation of the thing, and excepted only to some part of the form in which it was proposed. So that the reasonableness of the measure, the circumstances of the times, the present incampment of foreigners in England, the vast expence of importing, exporting, subsisting, and paying them, and the increase of public expence which must attend the course of the war; all concur to shew, that this national desire is well founded; and, unless the legislature is of a contrary opinion, it will be public wisdom to gratify the people, in so laudable, seasonable, and loyal a desire.

I HAVE offered all that at present occurs to me, in vindication of the addressees, as a CONSTITUTIONAL, DECENT, and NECESSARY measure. If I have the good fortune to give the reader satisfaction, I shall flatter myself with the hope of having answered another public end, of having roused his attention to the present state of the kingdom.

---

The following instructions were published too late to be inserted regularly in the collection.

To the honourable Robert Lee, Esq; and Thomas Rowney, Esq; representatives in parliament for the CITY of OXFORD.

WE the mayor, bailiffs, and commonalty of the city of Oxford, in common-council assembled, take this opportunity of returning you our sincere acknowledgements for your constant attendance and past conduct in

par-

parliament ; and to assure you of our entire confidence and reliance on your future perseverance therein : but permit us, in the present critical conjuncture of affairs, to desire that you will be particularly careful to exert your utmost abilities and endeavours for detecting those, who by treachery and mismanagement have contributed to the fatal and shameful loss of MINORCA, and to the present dismal state of our affairs in AMERICA.

That you will likewise endeavour to have all foreign troops and mercenaries transported out of the kingdom ; and that a well-regulated and constitutional MILITIA may be established in their room.

That the number of placemen may be limited ; that a fair and equal land-tax may be raised throughout the kingdom ; and that TRIENNIAL PARLIAMENTS may be restored, which we apprehend will be the most effectual means of obtaining a free and due representation of the people ; from which only can be expected the preservation of our liberties, and the continuance of our most excellent constitution.

Given under our common seal at Oxford the 1<sup>st</sup> day of December, in the year of our Lord 1756.

The following instructions appeared in the London Evening Post of Tuesday December 7<sup>th</sup>.

To the honourable Robert Nugent, Esq; and Jarrit Smith, Esq;

WE, the citizens of Bristol, who, in the midst of our present national calamities, are determined to act the part of free-born Englishmen (however others amongst us may be inclined to bow their necks to the yoke) take leave, at this critical conjuncture, to exercise our undoubted right of instructing our representatives in parliament ; and hope, that (though but one of you would comply with our request, to lay our late most dutiful address at his majesty's feet) you will both think proper to speak in parliament the language of your constituents.

We conjure you, that early in the approaching sessions, and before any fresh supplies are granted, you will promote to the utmost of your power, a strict enquiry into the application of the immense sums of money raised last year ; sums sufficient to have enabled us to drive the French from all their encroachments, to have procured us an enlargement of our commerce, and other great and national advantages : instead of which, we behold ourselves shamefully

fully stript of our strongest fortresses, and our AMERICAN colonies in a most alarming situation ; all of them unprovided of proper defence, and many of them desolated by the enemy. Such reverses ought not to be ascribed to the chance of war, or to unforeseen contingencies : our enemies, under great disadvantages, could not have succeeded ; the British nation, with the greatest advantages of early preparation and superior force, could not in every undertaking have been foiled, had all been right at home ; had the administering powers of the government been actuated by the least spark of national honour, or regard for the public welfare. We enjoin you, therefore, to search deep into the mysterious causes of these calamities ; and not to suffer the guilty to be screened by any artifice, or sheltered by any connections, from the justice so loudly demanded by an injured people.

Whilst we are thus urgent with you to vindicate the honour of our king and country against the betrayers of both, we would as earnestly represent to you the necessity of framing such laws as may strengthen the barriers of public liberty, and fence it on every side against the approaches of corruption. To restore TRIENNIAL PARLIAMENTS, to limit the number of placemen, and to exclude all pensioners from within your walls, are, we conceive, the only means to obtain these great and desirable ends. Be these, therefore, the principal objects of your attention, as by these only a constitutional independency may be preserved, and the genuine sense of the nation known by the mouth of a free representative.

To these essential points, echoed by the voice of a whole people, we take leave to add another, peculiarly interesting in the present conjuncture, the establishment of a well-regulated MILITIA, the surest and most permanent guard of his majesty's sacred person, and this now endangered kingdom, as thereby the nation will be secured at home from any alarm of invasions (the sole pretext for the late ruinous measures) and free scope be given to our maritime force abroad ; and more especially, as the want of it will continually furnish a pretence for introducing and maintaining foreign mercenaries amongst us, a measure evermore odious to a free people, and the greatest reproach to the loyalty and abilities of his majesty's British subjects.

From

From the General Evening Post, December 9.

To the right honourable Lord Viscount Howe, and Sir Willughby Aston, Baronet, members for the town of Nottingham.

**W**E, who are of the number of your constituents, declare that we had no hand in any former instructions sent from hence; and claim no share of the merit they deserve.

We charge nothing, directly or indirectly, upon the king, or his ministry, that has caused us loss, or given success to the common enemy in the present war: and are fully persuaded, that whoever is found faulty will be duly punished, and all national grievances, in proper time, (if possible) be legally redressed, without the clamouring of any of your constituents for justice, or their putting you upon something officious.

The luxury that corrupts our gentry, and our traders who vie with them, and a general neglect of the precepts and duties of our holy religion, we assign as the chiefest cause why the divine providence has suffered our wisdom to be turned into folly, and our superior strength to be baffled: and though we believe the War to be just, and are ready cheerfully to contribute to the proper and necessary means to continue it, yet we have no sufficient ground to look for the divine assistance, 'till there be a change of morals, and virtue and industry be once again restored amongst us.

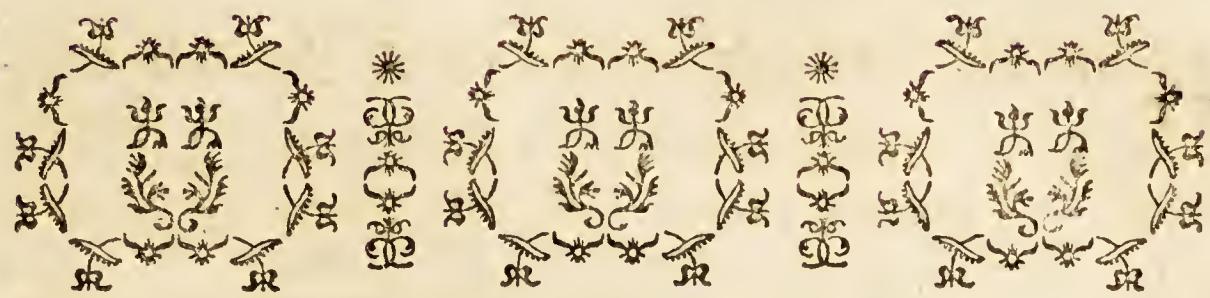
We have nothing to fear from a king that is a father to his subjects: under such a head, the reason for frequent elections ceases: and the licentious and disorderly spirit (the abuse of freedom) which, for avoiding a greater evil, is countenanced on such occasions, must, and may safely, have time to cool, otherwise it may become intolerable.

Idleness and sloth among the mechanics, and an unwillingness to labour, joined to a licentious disposition, that hath not subsided since the election, are the causes why the poor are become riotous, and would live by plunder rather than by industry and frugality; as it is, they are burthensome and troublesome: and for us to join in requesting a national **MILITIA**, that would be full of such sort of people, who will never be kept under any regular restraint, seems to us like joining in a request for a **MILITIA** to overthrow our happy constitution! a thought we abhor.

These things we offer to your candid consideration, as agreeable to the sentiments of many of your electors.

# ALPHABETICAL TABLE.

<b>B</b> EDFORD, County of, — Resolution of the Grand Jury	Page 3
BRECON, County of, — Instructions	54
BRISTOL, City of, — Address, presented by Mr. Smith	12
— Ditto, from the Mayor, Commonalty, &c. presented by Mr. Nugent.	15
— Ditto, from the Gentlemen, Clergy, and Merchants, presented by ditto	16
— Address, at the end of the preface	
BOSTON, Borough of, — Address	40
BUCKS, County of, — Resolution of the Grand Jury	1
CHESTER, County of, — Ditto	18
— Application from the Freeholders	18
— Address	21
— City of, — Ditto	20
DEVON, County of, — Application	24
DORSET, County of, — Address	2
ESSEX, County of, — Representation and Request	23
EXETER, City of, — Address	31
HEREFORD, County of, — Instructions	3
HUNTINGDON, County of, — Ditto	8
IPSWICH, Borough of, — Ditto	51
LANCASTER, County of, — Ditto	19
LEOMINSTER, Borough of, — Ditto	13
LICHFIELD, City of, — Ditto	50
LINCOLN, County of, — Ditto	27
— (For the Parts of Holland)	
Instructions	29
— Address	33
LONDON, City of, — Ditto	4
— Instructions	38
MAIDSTONE, Borough of, — Instructions	26
NEW-SARUM, City of, — Ditto	48
NORFOLK, County of, — Resolution of the Grand Jury	9
— Address	11
NOTTINGHAM, Town of, — Instructions	47
— Ditto, at the End of the Preface	
OXFORD, City of, — Ditto	Ditto
SALOP, County of, — Ditto	9
SOMERSET, County of, — Ditto	36
— Address	14
SOUTHWARK, Borough of, — Instructions	37
— Address	46
SUFFOLK, County of, — Instructions	10
YORK, County of, — Ditto	34
— City of, — Address	44



A

# COLLECTION OF ADDRESSES, INSTRUCTIONS, and RESOLUTIONS.

---

The grand jury of the COUNTY of BUCKS, at the assizes holden at the town of Buckingham, the 9th day of August, 1756,

Resolved,

THAT the representatives of this county be desired to promote, to the utmost of their power, an enquiry in parliament into the present most dangerous and desperate state of this kingdom, and into the reasons why, after the greatest supplies had been granted, and the most expensive armaments made, both by sea and land, the important island of MINORCA, for want of a more timely succour, hath been totally lost; and the other dominions of this crown, particularly in NORTH-AMERICA, so long left defenceless, and now brought into the most perilous situation.

B

On

On Friday, August 13th, 1756, the following address of the high sheriff, grand jury, justices of the peace, and gentlemen of the COUNTY of DORSET, was presented by George Pitt, and Humphry Stuart, Esqrs. representatives in parliament for the said county ; being introduced by the right honourable the Earl of Rochford, one of the lords of the bedchamber to his majesty.

To the K I N G's most excellent majesty.

WE, your majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the high sheriff, grand jury, justices of the peace, and gentlemen of the County of Dorset, most humbly beg leave, at this critical juncture, to assure your majesty of our most firm and unshaken zeal for your majesty's person and government ; and that we shall, with the greatest alacrity, embrace every opportunity of exerting ourselves in support of both.

Under the government of a king of your majesty's great and martial disposition, and in the prosecution of so just and national a war, we are not at all intimidated with the threats and power of France ; a nation this has never feared, has often humbled. But when we reflect on the loss of the island of MINORCA, so gloriously obtained, so advantageously kept, of such inestimable value to the trade of these kingdoms ; we are convinced, that this attempt of our natural and inveterate enemy was so notorious, that very few of your majesty's faithful subjects had the least doubt of the design, long before it was put in execution : yet the island was left defenceless, and the Mediterranean without any English fleet there. These reflections fill us with fear and amazement ! and we most humbly hope your majesty will be pleased to direct such enquiry to be made into the conduct which has so astonishingly turned this desperate and rash attempt of our enemy into victory and glory, and has covered this nation with reproach and dishonour, that, from whatever causes it hath proceeded, the persons by whom it has been occasioned, may receive that punishment so justly deserved.

On

On Friday, August 13th, the assizes ended for the COUNTY of BEDFORD; at which the high sheriff and the grand jury resolved,

THAT the representatives of that county be desired to promote a parliamentary enquiry; why, after the largest supplies granted by parliament, and the most cheerful and ready support given by the whole people, the island of MINORCA, so important to the commerical interests of this county, hath been lost for want of a timely succour? and why the other possessions of the crown, especially in NORTH-AMERICA, and the West-Indies, are now left exposed to the utmost danger?

To Velters Cornwall, Esq; and Sir John Morgan, Bart. knights of the shire for the COUNTY of HEREFORD.

WE the high sheriff and grand jury for the said county, now assembled at the assizes held for the same, being greatly alarmed at the present melancholy and distressed situation of affairs of this nation, think it a duty incumbent on us to apply to you, our worthy representatives, upon whose diligent and faithful conduct in the approaching sessions of parliament we entirely rely.

When we reflect on the deplorable loss of MINORCA, one of our most valuable possessions (a loss aggravated by the unprecedented dishonour sustained by the British flag in the Mediterranean !), and on the distressed state of our colonies in AMERICA, on which the trade and well-being of these kingdoms depend, we cannot but call to mind the immense supplies granted in the last sessions of parliament, for the defence of his majesty's dominions, and the great fleets and armies raised for the same, without any apparent advantage. We therefore, in behalf of ourselves, and the other freeholders of this county, instruct you to make a strict enquiry into the application of the public money, and the causes of these fatal misfortunes, and to use your utmost endeavours to discover those who have been any ways accessory thereto, and to bring them to public justice.

The right honourable the **LORD-MAYOR**,  
**ALDERMEN**, and **COMMON-COUNCIL** of the  
\***CITY OF LONDON**, being introduced to  
the king on Friday August 20th, 1756, by his  
grace the duke of Grafton ; Sir William More-  
ton, the recorder, made their compliments to  
his majesty in the following address.

Most gracious sovereign,

**W**E your majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects,  
the lord-mayor, aldermen, and commons of the  
city of London, in common council assembled, humbly  
beg leave to approach your sacred person, and with hearts  
full of gratitude for your majesty's paternal care of the  
true interests of your people, to express our sorrow and  
apprehensions for the disquietudes which our late losses  
and disappointments must create in your majesty's royal  
mind.

The

---

\* The earnest petition of the **KINGDOM** of Great Britain to the  
**CITY** of **LONDON**, inserted in the public papers, July 31, 1756.

**I**N the time of the most alarming circumstances the whole  
kingdom flies to the ancient and famous city of London  
for safety : upon her it casts its eyes for deliverance ; to her  
it will impute its destruction, if it should become (which hea-  
ven forbid) a province to France. The city of London is still  
able to save three kingdoms : O ye still happy citizens, con-  
sider what noble things ye are even now capable of effecting !  
Ye may save millions and millions from French tyranny, and  
Popish superstition. O let not the syren luxury, let not the  
mean selfish spirit, the bane of every virtuous action, lull you  
into indifferency ! Consider those who are to come after you,  
and hand down freedom and happiness to your posterity,

Sacred and profane history inform us, that the divine pro-  
vidence often permits great evils to befall nations, on purpose  
to rouze them from their indifference, to save them thereby  
from utter destruction. If this has no effect, entire ruin soon  
follows : this has always been, and ever will be the case. An-  
gels as well as men are witness, ye honourable citizens, that  
ye are now publickly told this important truth ; angels and  
men will bear witness against you, if ye do not regard it.

Long

The loss of the important fortress of St. Philip, and the island of MINORCA (possessions of the utmost consequence to the commerce and naval strength of Great-Britain) without any attempt, by timely and effectual succours, to prevent or defeat an attack, after such early notice of the enemy's intentions, and when your majesty's navy was so evidently superior to theirs, will, we fear, be an indelible reproach on the honour of the British nation.

Nor

---

Long has it possessed your minds, that you have an invincible fleet, that you are entirely secure in these wooden walls; but the experience of late affairs has shewn, that without some considerable amendments, you trust in that which may fail you. Deceive not yourselves by thinking (though he deserves your highest resentment) that one man only is faulty; but O remember, and let it strike deep on your minds, that a whole council of war approved of your fleet flying before the enemy, inferior to number and strength; and it would be no difficult matter to prove, by more than this instance, that your navy is scarce an equal match for your rival. Think not your selves safe because you surpass in number; for if you are not equal in courage, skill, and conduct, you will soon become inferior in number, or your number will be of no avail.

The divine providence has, perhaps, permitted the shameful disgrace which has lately befallen us, to awaken you from a false security. Hear, O citizens, the divine voice calling to you from your fleets fleeing before the enemy (an amazing sight!) " Awake, or you are undone."

Your wars of late years having been transacted on the continent, and your fleets having had little share in them; it has passed with you as an undoubted truth, that you had an immeasurable certain superiority over your dangerous rival on the sea, which nature has bestowed on you for your great security; a bulwark in which all your safety consists, and by which the divine providence made you the masters. But now the time is come, that your despised rival in this element defies you upon it; and strives, as much as ye yourselves have done, to confine the contest to a sea war. Which side has shewn superior skill, and courage, and conduct, the annals of the time will tell. But this is plainly evident, that unless some considerable reformation, unless some new laws and regulations are made, unless posts of command are made the rewards of merit only, unless an higher sense of honour love and glory is lighted up, unless an improvement in knowledge is made

Nor can we help expressing our apprehensions for the great danger of your majesty's possessions in AMERICA, by the mismanagements and delays which have attended the defence of those invaluable colonies, the object of the present war, and the principal source of the wealth and strength of these kingdoms.

Permit

made the study of your navy, you will in a few years become the scorn of your enemy, and must live in perpetual dread of them.

It is your duty, O citizens, as the metropolis of the kingdom, to have your eyes open to these now plain truths; to unite in one body (calling on the other chief cities in the kingdom, to do the same) and petition your sovereign, who has your welfare deeply at heart, to cause the parliament to sit for business at the time it now stands prorogued to, that an immediate and impartial enquiry may be made into the late miscarriages, and that such new laws and regulations may be made as may infallibly tend (with God's blessing) to give our navy that certain superiority, which it has long boasted of, (and which might indeed be well expected from it's strength and number) so that it may not stand upon the defensive only, or be merely employed in annoying the trading ships of the enemy, but boldly employ all its force in destroying the navy of our rival, which alone can save us from destruction. Temporary expedients, foreign troops and alliances, may keep us up a few years, but this alone can effectually save us,

If the large supplies which have been already granted are not sufficient, let your hearts be open to make a noble free gift, equal to the purpose; but upon this condition, that courage, skill and conduct, be sought for every where, and your safety placed only upon these solid foundations, under such regulations as may make the sense of honour and glory rise to the highest pitch, directed wholly to the destruction of your rival's navy. Then, O citizens, may you securely rest in the strength of your wooden walls; but till then your confidence is vain, and will deceive you to your ruin.

What immortal glory! what noble satisfaction of mind will attend that leading citizen, who will have love enough for his country, to set on foot this necessary association! an association, whercin let every view be banished, but that of saving your country; for though the ruin may not be immediate, yet will it surely come, unless timely prevented by some immediate reformation. Already have we one part of our dominions taken from us; already does the enemy sail victorious and triumphant in one sea, in which we have before always

com-

Permit us, at the same time, royal sir, to lament the want of a constitutional and well-regulated **MILITIA**, the most natural and certain defence, under divine providence, of your majesty's sacred person and government, against all invaders whatsoever; as thereby your majesty's fleets and armies may be more securely employed abroad, to the annoyance of your majesty's enemies; your faithful and loyal subjects being ready and willing, whenever called upon by your majesty, to shed the last drop of their blood in your service.

As your majesty's reign has ever been distinguished by a love of liberty and justice, we cannot doubt of your majesty's directing the authors of our late losses and disappointments to be enquired after and punished, that your majesty's known intentions of protecting and defending your subjects in their rights and possessions may be faithfully and vigorously carried into execution, and that the large supplies, so necessarily called for, and so chearfully granted, may be religiously applied to the defence of these kingdoms and colonies, and their commerce, and to the distressing our inveterate and perfidious enemies, as the only sure means of obtaining a lasting and honourable peace.

And we do, with the utmost sincerity of heart, assure your majesty, that your loyal City of London will, at all times, readily and chearfully contribute to whatever may be necessary for the defence of your majesty, and your illustrious family, and towards the attainment of these great and desirable ends.

---

commanded. Both of these were thought a few months ago as much out of the power of the enemy, as the spot we live on. Who can tell ('till an immediate enquiry is made into things) what at present undreamt of weakness, what a deficiency of skill, and conduct, and courage, may appear in the day of trial, when not the island of **MINORCA**, but the island of Great Britain is the stake contended for!

Awake! Citizens, awake! set before your eyes your glorious ancestors entreating you to bestir yourselves to preserve that security and happiness which they purchased for you with so much toil and blood. See unborn generations supplicating you to transmit to them that happiness and security which ye yourselves have enjoyed! Hear, as it were, the voice of God, commanding you to save the land from the idolatries of France and Rome!

To which address his majesty was pleased to return  
this most gracious answer.

**I** Thank you for these professions of your duty to me. My concern for the loss of my island of Minorca is great and sincere. My utmost care and vigilance have been, and shall be, exerted to maintain the honour of the nation, and the commerce of my subjects. The events of war are uncertain: but nothing shall be wanting on my part towards carrying it on with vigour, in order to a safe and honourable peace; and for recovering and securing, by the blessing of God, the possessions and rights of my crown.

I will not fail to do justice upon ANY PERSONS who shall have been wanting in their duty to me, and their country; to enforce obedience and discipline in my fleets and armies, and to support the authority and respect due to my government.

To the right honourable the lord Carysfort and Coulson Fellowes, Esq; knights of the shire for the COUNTY of HUNTINGDON.

**W**E the grand jury met this 16th day of August, 1756, at the assizes held in and for the said county of Huntingdon, earnestly request that you will zealously promote an enquiry, in the next sessions of parliament, not only into the causes of that disgrace which this kingdom has suffered by the fatal loss of the island of MINORCA for want of timely relief, an island of the utmost consequence and importance to the trade and prosperity of this nation;

But also into the reasons of his majesty's colonies in AMERICA being left in so defenceless a state, after such great armaments have been made both by sea and land, and such supplies granted by parliament as were equal to the most important services.

And that you will likewise be pleased to promote, to the utmost of your power, a NATIONAL MILITIA, as the most effectual means of rendering Great-Britain truly formidable to the enemies of our king and country.

In complying with these our requests you will much oblige all your constituents, and in particular your most obedient servants.

Salop,

Salop, August 20, 1756.

To Sir John Astley, Bart. and Richard Lyster, Esq;  
knights of the shire for the COUNTY of SALOP.

WE the high sheriff and the grand jury for this county, after considering the immense supplies that have been granted in parliament, the most expensive armaments both by sea and land, and reflecting upon the great loss of MINORCA, and the disgrace brought upon the British navy in the Mediterranean, do earnestly recommend to you an enquiry, at the next meeting of the parliament, into the causes of these national misfortunes, and the impending danger of our colonies in NORTH AMERICA, the great source of our wealth and navigation; and that you will use your utmost endeavours to discover the authors of the calamities we are already sensibly affected with, as a means to prevent other losses, which may tend further to reduce the honour and interest of this kingdom.

At Norfolk assizes, the grand jury came to the following resolution :

THAT the thanks of the high sheriff and grand jury of this county be given to the honourable George Townshend, and Sir Armine Wodehouse, Bart. the knights of the shire, for their constant attendance and steady uniform conduct during the last session of parliament, and particularly for their endeavours to obtain a proper and effectual defence for this nation, by a well regulated MILITIA; in the moving, concerting, bringing in and supporting of which, one of them had, to his own distinguished credit, and to the honour of this county which he represents, so remarkable a share.

The grand jury also unanimously agreed to prepare an humble address to his majesty on the present critical situation of affairs; which being considered and agreed to, the honourable George Townshend, Esq; and Sir Armine Wodehouse, Bart. the representatives for the county, were desired to wait on his majesty with the same.

An application from the high sheriff, grand juries, and gentlemen, assembled at the assizes holden at Bury St. Edmunds, for the COUNTY OF SUFFOLK, to their representatives, Sir Cordell Firebrace, Bart. and John Affleck, Esq; this 21st day of August, 1756.

Gentlemen,

THE present critical and dangerous state to which we are too apparently reduced, calls upon us to awaken all your attention, and to exhort and conjure you, in the most pressing terms, to use your best endeavours, when it shall please his majesty to advise again with his parliament, for promoting a strict scrutiny into the fatal causes of it.

It would be needless to enter into the mortifying detail of those particulars, which have been the objects, not of ours only, but of the general indignation of Great Britain: the voice of the people has loudly echoed them, from every corner of the island; the country has felt and lamented the disgraceful effects, and demands justice upon the authors of them: the cruel delays in sending out our fleet, which first paved the way, and the dastardly, or treacherous, (we know not which to call it) conduct of the commander, have fixed such a blot upon his majesty's reign, as nothing can ever wipe off and atone for, but speedy justice and punishment upon all those who shall be found, upon a rigorous and impartial enquiry, in any wise to have contributed to it.

We cannot but think our circumstances the more melancholy, as we are persuaded, a superiority at sea, and a well established NATIONAL MILITIA, would answer all our wishes; and, without the inglorious aid of foreign mercenaries, enable us to defy, if not to humble, after the example of our ancestors, the domineering power of France; were wisdom and resolution not wanting to direct, activity and courage to execute, measures calculated for the service of our own country only.

The heavy load of debt, and increasing burthen of the most oppressive taxes, are evils of themselves sufficient to make us groan under them. But, when we see the uses

uses to which they were destined so miserably perverted, the ends they were given to answer so scandalously disappointed, we cannot but be filled with the most gloomy apprehensions of approaching ruin, unless the spirit and wisdom of parliament shall, as in former times, again rouze itself to our relief.

On Wednesday September 1, 1756, the following address from the high sheriff and grand jury of the COUNTY of NORFOLK, was presented to his majesty at Kensington, by the honourable George Townshend, Esq; and Sir Armine Wodehouse, Bart.

To the K I N G's most excellent majesty.

The humble address of the high sheriff and grand jury for the county of Norfolk.

May it please your majesty,

WE your majesty's most loyal and dutiful subjects, the high sheriff and grand jury for the county of Norfolk, assembled at the assizes held for the said county, humbly beg leave, on this public occasion, most sincerely to assure your majesty, of our readiness to support, with our lives and fortunes, your majesty's sacred person and government, in the prosecution of the war, so justly undertaken, for the preservation of your majesty's undoubted rights and possessions.

Deeply affected with the loss of the important island of MINORCA, but more so with the disgraceful and extraordinary circumstances attending it, and full of the most anxious fears for the neglected and deplorable condition of our fellow-subjects in AMERICA, we humbly approach your majesty's throne with our earnest request, and hopes, founded on our long experience of your majesty's constant concern for justice, that the true cause of these national calamities may be speedily and effectually enquired into; and if any shall be found either to have disgraced our arms abroad, or betrayed our councils at home, they may meet with exemplary punishment.

As we are persuaded that the present alarming and exposed situation of this country arises, in some measure,

from the want of a constitutional and effective **MILITIA**, (the natural defence of this nation) by the establishment of which, your majesty's regular forces may be employed in greater numbers, and with more success, in the defence of your majesty's subjects and possessions abroad, and your fleets be less confined to the protection of our coasts; permit us to assure your majesty, that we your loyal and faithful subjects, animated by a real affection for our happy constitution, and an ardent zeal for your majesty, and the succession of the crown established in your illustrious house, are ready and willing to offer our persons and fortunes, no less when this most desirable and constitutional provision shall take place, than upon every other occasion which calls upon us as dutiful and faithful subjects.

To the K I N G's most excellent majesty.

The humble address of the gentlemen, clergy, merchants, and other principal inhabitants of the CITY of BRISTOL; presented by Jarrit Smith, Esq; Thursday September 2, 1756.

**W**E your majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the gentlemen, clergy, merchants, and other principal inhabitants of the city of Bristol, beg leave to lay ourselves at your majesty's feet, and to address your majesty on the present afflictive and melancholy situation of publick affairs, both at home and abroad.

It is with the most sensible grief, that we see one of the most valuable FORTRESSES in your majesty's dominions torn from us by a deceitful and perfidious enemy; and our AMERICAN settlements, by some fatal delay, or mismanagement, exposed to very imminent dangers; at a time when your majesty has a confessed superiority of naval force, and after the largest supplies have most readily been granted for their preservation and support.

We have the highest reason to hope from your majesty's known justice, and constant attention to the welfare and prosperity of your people, that the latent causes of our present calamities, will be strictly enquired into and brought to light: and that those persons (if any such there be) who have either wantonly neglected, or treacherously betrayed, the honour of the nation, may not escape the punishment

punishment due to their atrocious crimes. At the same time, we repose ourselves in your majesty's paternal care, that the late supplies may be strictly appropriated to the salutary ends for which they were granted, the distressing and annoyance of our declared enemies, the defence of the kingdom, and the protection and support of our commerce and colonies.

We cannot but lament, that for want of a well regulated NATIONAL MILITIA, your faithful subjects of these kingdoms are not at liberty to prove by their actions their affection to their country, and their loyalty to the best of kings: and we beg leave to assure your majesty, that for our parts we shall always (when enabled) be ready and desirous to exert our courage, and hazard our lives and fortunes in defence of your majesty's sacred person and illustrious family, against all invaders whatsoever.

Leominster, September 3, 1756.

To Richard Gorges, Esq; our worthy representative in parliament.

WE your constituents of the borough of Leominster, in the county of Hereford, under the most dreadful apprehensions of approaching ruin, think it our indispensable duty to impart our melancholy sentiments freely, upon the distressed and desperate state of the publick affairs; and to enjoin you to exert your utmost vigour for the preservation of our country.

In order to this, we instruct you to make the strictest inquiry into the causes of the indelible infamy brought upon the British flag in the Mediterranean, the irreparable loss of MINORCA, and with it a very considerable part of our commerce; as well as into the source of the impending danger that threatens our AMERICAN settlements, upon the safety of which the rest of our trade depends; and steadily to pursue such measures as may bring the authors of our distress and disgrace, however exalted in station, or guarded by connection, to exemplary punishment, as some satisfaction in return for the immense supplies so chearfully raised by a loyal, but almost exhausted, people, and so mysteriously applied.

You will, sir, persist in your endeavours to obtain, as a proper supplement to our naval force, an ESTABLISHED MILI-

MILITIA; the most natural, constitutional, and effectual defence against any invasion; and at the same time preclusive of any pretended necessity for foreign mercenaries, who, as our annals inform us, have more than once subverted that liberty they were invited to defend.

These important concerns call more immediately for redress: yet we rest assured you will vigilantly embrace every opportunity of promoting such laws, as will effectually reduce and limit the number of placemen, abolish pensions within doors, and prevent bribery and corruption without; it being impossible we can be a prosperous and happy people, without free and independent parliaments.

The humble address of the high sheriff, grand jury, and gentlemen of the COUNTY of SOMERSET, presented to his majesty Saturday, Sept. 4th, 1756.

May it please your majesty,

**W**E, your majesty's most faithful subjects, the high sheriff, grand jury, and gentlemen assembled at the assizes held for the county of Somerset, beg leave most humbly, to address your majesty on the present critical situation of affairs; and to offer the most unfeigned assurances of our inviolable affection and fidelity to your sacred person and illustrious family: nor can we doubt but that your majesty will receive, with approbation, our expressions of concern for the welfare and honour of your kingdoms, which it has been the study of your royal life to promote and maintain.

The loss of the important island of MINORCA appears, to us, to be not only a dreadful blow to the trade of this nation, but an indelible stain on our political as well as martial glory: this unprevented, though not unexpected, stroke, at the beginning of a just and national war, vigorously and effectually supported by your majesty's loyal and affectionate subjects, must, we conceive, fill every British heart with apprehension and surprize. Yet, by what means soever this great misfortune came to pass, by whatever hands the public interest and honour were given up; we cannot distrust your majesty's paternal care of your people, or your impartial justice on those who shall be found to

to have betrayed them. For, as we are persuaded that no true lover of his country will refuse to expose his life and fortune in defence of your sacred person and government; so are we well satisfied, that your majesty will not honour with your royal countenance and protection those who have not at heart the safety and happiness of Great-Britain.

To the K I N G's most excellent majesty.

The humble address of the mayor, burgesses, and commonalty of the CITY of BRISTOL, in common-council assembled; presented Monday September 10th, 1756, by Mr. Nugent.

Most gracious sovereign,

**W**E your majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the mayor, burgesses, and commonalty of the city of Bristol, in common-council assembled, most humbly approach your throne, to testify our firm and unshaken zeal for your most sacred person and illustrious house.

The late miscarriage of your majesty's arms in the Mediterranean gives us real sorrow, as we fear its consequences will be fatal to the trade, the wealth, and glory of this independent country. However, we are not dismayed at this unfortunate event, since we never doubted but your majesty's wisdom would direct that free and constitutional enquiry into the cause of this national dishonour, as will not fail of bringing to justice any persons who have been deficient in their duty to you, the bravest and best of kings.

Though we think it the highest presumption to prescribe measures to your majesty in the present important conjuncture, yet permit us, sir, to acknowledge our entire satisfaction and reliance in your majesty's magnanimity and goodness expressed in your royal and most gracious assurances to your citizens of London; which we flatter ourselves must remove every distrust and jealousy, animate the desponding, and unite all true Englishmen in a vigorous and affectionate support of the common cause, thereby maintaining reputation abroad, and our security at home, to the entire defeat of the hopes and designs of our enemies.

Nor

Nor can we here omit rendering our unfeigned thanks for the numerous blessings we have already enjoyed under your majesty's auspicious reign, and that paternal regard you have always shewn for the general welfare and happiness of your people; these loudly call from us most grateful returns of confidence and duty; and as no dangers or misfortunes shall deject us, so we beg leave to offer our hearty and sincere assurances that nothing shall ever divert us from defending (at the hazard of our lives and fortunes) your majesty's person and government in the prosecution of this just and necessary war, for recovering the indisputable rights and possessions of your crown, and fixing, upon a solid basis, the free and extensive commerce of your subjects.

To the K I N G's most excellent majesty.

The humble address of the gentlemen, clergy, merchants, and others, the principal inhabitants of the CITY of BRISTOL; presented by Mr. Nugent, Monday, September 13.

Most gracious sovereign,

**W**E your majesty's most faithful and dutiful subjects, the gentlemen, clergy, merchants, and other principal inhabitants of your antient and ever loyal city of Bristol, humbly beg leave to approach your throne, and, with the utmost truth and sincerity, to assure your majesty, that the many blessings we enjoy under your auspicious reign, and the most gracious answer your majesty has lately been pleased to give to the address of the first city of your kingdom, call for, from us and all your subjects, returns of the warmest gratitude, and the most unfeigned loyalty and affection.

We sincerely join with our fellow-subjects in the general grief and concern for the loss of your majesty's island of MINORCA; and greatly lament the disgrace brought on that part of our royal navy sent to the relief of it, appearing at present to be CHIEFLY owing to the cowardice or misconduct of the SUPERIOR OFFICER, who, on that important occasion, might have done the most acceptable service to your majesty and his country, and increased the glory

glory of the British flag. At the same time we highly commend the brave and noble defence of Fort St. Philip, as doing honour to your majesty's arms, and to those gallant officers and soldiers, to whom the care of it was entrusted: and as we have long experienced your majesty's readiness in rewarding merit; so on the other hand, we cannot doubt but the strictest enquiry will be made into the causes of these our national misfortunes, and the guilty, whosoever they are, duly and impartially prosecuted and punished. We have your majesty's royal word for it, and on that we rely.

Your majesty will permit us to express our greatful sense of your paternal regard, and of the great care and prudent measures which are taken for the *safety* and *defence* of Great Britain; and that by your majesty's wise conduct and vigilance, the most considerable fleet, which the French have been able to equip during the present war, has been *blocked up* by your majesty's squadron in the bay of Biscay; the *ships* of your majesty's subjects *protected*; their *trade supported*, whilst captures are daily making of those of the enemy, and their *unprotected commerce* falling a sacrifice to our publick and private ships of war.

We are FULLY satisfied, that the assistances given to our colonies and settlements in AMERICA, are such as (by the blessing of God upon your majesty's arms) will secure to us our just rights and possessions; and that all such succours and supplies have been, and will be sent thither, as are, or shall be, compatible with the *superior interest* and *immediate preservation* of this kingdom.

We should think it presumption in us to dictate to your majesty, what further measures will be requisite to be pursued for the defence and security of this kingdom; but shall chearfully acquiesce in all such as shall be established by the legal determination of publick and constitutional wisdom: not doubting but every thing will be done consistent with the liberties and privileges of a free people, and the interest of a nation which hath its principal dependance on trade, commerce, and manufactures; and your majesty may be assured that we shall, in our several stations, continue to do every thing in our power to render your majesty's government respectable, and your reign happy and glorious.

AT the last assizes at CHESTER, there was a full grand jury, and a numerous appearance of the gentlemen of that county, among whom were four baronets, and six members of parliament, when it was unanimously resolved, dutifully to remonstrate to our gracious sovereign, concerning the late most disgraceful loss, the present calamitous state of the kingdom, and the grievous oppression of foreign mercenaries; and humbly to apply for England's natural defence, a duly regulated MILITIA; and likewise for a speedy and strict enquiry into the conduct of those who have brought distress and infamy upon these nations. The address was signed by the high sheriff, grand jury, and gentlemen; and then delivered to the knights of the shire, to be, by them, presented to his majesty.

An application from the CHESHIRE freeholders.

Taken from the London Evening Post of Tuesday,  
September 21.

To the right worshipful the high sheriff, the grand jury, and gentlemen of the County Palatine of CHESTER.

Gentlemen,

PERMIT your countrymen to represent to you, that if ever there can be a time requiring your utmost attention, the present demands it,

Our hopes, indeed expectations, are, that you, who now assemble to serve the public, will duly weigh and consider its situation, at this very extraordinary juncture. Soon will it then appear, that the levied treasures have been wasted, and squandered in iniquitous measures, and corrupt misapplications. You will perceive the nation grievously over-loaded with taxes, incumbered with an immense, yet still increasing debt. --- You will find our fellow-subjects kept unarmed, while numbers of foreign mercenaries are hired, to our disgrace, and unavailingly imported at an enormous expence: yet these aliens, who, in a time of scarcity, devour the natives bread; will they, in time of need, fight their battles? dear bought experience evinces the contrary: yet are our own people rejected, who, innately brave, and cordially interested, would strenuously defend

defend his sacred majesty, and their own endangered country.

You will find, that by ignorance, cowardice, or treachery, our fleets and armies have been rendered of none effect; witness the late American and Mediterranean expeditions! You will find (O shame to Britons!) that MINORCA, once gloriously acquired, and since no less valiantly defended, an island so essential to our commerce, unaccountably abandoned! (not to say more) to our perfidious enemies. You will see England, heretofore the arbitress of Europe, deserted by her old and able allies, reduced to court the aid of new and useless powers, and, by strange and shocking misconduct, held in contempt and derision by nations all around her.

Thus circumstanced, to be passively silent, were to be tamely degenerate; for, as yet, you would imagine yourselves free. Does not then this critical juncture require from you, more than instructions to your representatives? Exert yourselves, therefore (you have laudable examples) and address your sovereign; humbly representing to his majesty the absolute necessity of having our natural and constitutional guard, a well regulated MILITIA, and of a speedy and strict scrutiny into the conduct of those, who, when it was in their power, did not prevent our losses. Approach the throne with loyalty and allegiance; yet, at the same time, with a dutiful firmness, apply for justice against those who (as it is violently presumed) have conducted, or conspired, to overwhelm us with infamy and confusion.

September 6,                    We are, gentlemen,  
1756.                            your very humble servants,  
    A. B. C. D. E. F. G. H. J. K. &c. &c. &c.

Lancaster, Sept. 15, 1756.

To the right honourable the lord Strange, and  
Peter Bold, Esq; representatives in parliament  
for the County Palatine of LANCASTER.

WE the high sheriff and grand jury for the county palatine of Lancaster, and other gentlemen now assembled at the assizes here held, return you our sincere thanks for your assiduous attendance in parliament; and we beg leave to recommend to you, at the ensuing sessions,

an enquiry through what misconduct or misfortune the large supplies so chearfully granted, have not had the desired and expected effect, in protecting the several parts of his majesty's dominions, and annoying his enemies; and, in particular, what were the causes of the great disgrace and loss which this nation has lately sustained in the Mediterranean. And, in order to secure us from still nearer and greater dangers with which we are threatened, we desire you will again try, and hope with success, to procure a law for a well established NATIONAL MILITIA, which we look upon as the best and most natural means of preserving to us and our posterity the boasted blessings of our liberties, laws, and religion, which we now enjoy under the protection of our present most gracious sovereign.

September 23. Last week was held a general common-council of the mayor and corporation of the CITY of CHESTER, when it was unanimously resolved to address the king upon the present situation of the public. And an address was prepared accordingly, with hearty professions of loyalty towards his majesty, with due resentment against mismanagement, cowardice and perfidy; and expressive of a deep concern for our late losses, and for the distress and infamy now brought upon this once flourishing nation.

On Friday, October 1, the following address from the CITY of CHESTER, was presented to his majesty at Kensington, by Sir Richard Grosvenor, Bart. and Thomas Grosvenor, Esq;

To the K I N G's most excellent majesty.

Most gracious sovereign,

**W**E your majesty's dutiful and faithful subjects, the mayor, recorder, aldermen, sheriffs, and common-council of your antient and loyal city of Chester, in common-council assembled, do, in behalf of ourselves and fellow-citizens, beg leave to approach your throne, and, with a fidelity ever distinguishing this city, endeavour to express our heart-felt concern at present ills and impending dangers.

We

We see the nation burthened with foreign mercenaries, denied the aid and defence of its natives, grievously taxed, nearly overwhelmed with an immense debt, and, by cowardice, or treachery, deprived of that once glorious acquisition, the island of MINORCA ; a loss accompanied with utter ignominy, and almost indelible disgrace !

These, together with the dilatory and perplexed ordering of our fleets and armies, both in Europe and America, and the very little availment of most extraordinary supplies, too fatally evince a strange mismanagement among those to whom the care of the levied treasures and public weal have been, alas ! unhappily intrusted.

Permit us, therefore, humbly to intreat your majesty, out of regard to your royal self, for the sake of your illustrious house, for the security of the protestant succession, and for the welfare of your kingdoms, soon to direct a full enquiry into the conduct of those who have (as it is presumed) abused your authority, and brought distress and infamy upon these nations.

We further most dutifully and earnestly desire, that your people may have their natural and constitutional guard, a well-regulated MILITIA, which, we are persuaded, will prove the most effectual and permanent defence of your majesty's sacred person, and this much endangered country.

We beg leave, likewise, to add our sincere professions of a hearty zeal for your majesty's service ; and that we will always readily contribute to the utmost of our power, to retrieve our losses, to guard these realms, and to render Great-Britain, as heretofore, honoured in peace, and terrible in war.

On Friday October 1, the following address from the COUNTY palatine of CHESTER, was presented to his majesty at Kensington, by their representatives, Samuel Egerton and Thomas Cholmondeley, Esqrs.

To the K I N G's most excellent majesty.

WE, your majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the high sheriff, grand jury, gentlemen and free-holders of the county palatine of Chester, most humbly beg

beg leave, at this very extraordinary juncture, to address your sacred person with hearts firmly attached to the preservation of your majesty's government, and the liberties of our country; which we apprehend to be so closely connected, that they must mutually depend on the existence of each other.

Conscious, therefore, of your majesty's wonted justice and paternal affection for your people, we dutifully hope, that your majesty will kindly, and duly, consider the present unhappy situation of these once flourishing kingdoms.

We are too apprehensive, from many alarming circumstances, that the supplies so chearfully and liberally given, for the support of your majesty's British dominions, have been fatally misapplied.

We reflect, with the utmost concern and abhorrence, that our fleets and armies have been rendered ineffectual by ignorance, cowardice, or treachery: that our AMERICAN plantations, by which our trade principally flourishes, are shamefully torn from us, notwithstanding the large sums allowed for their defence: and that MINORCA, once gloriously acquired, and since no less valiantly defended; an island so essential to our commerce, and a jewel so conspicuous in your majesty's crown, has been unaccountably abandoned, to the perpetual disgrace of this nation and your majesty's glory, to our perfidious enemy; an enemy we have hitherto never feared, but have often humbled.

Our concern naturally increases when we reflect farther; that the taxes are grievous, the national debt immense; that our trade daily lessens, though they multiply; by which, we fear, we may be too soon disabled from raising the necessary supplies for the support of your majesty's and our country's rights.

We behold also, with the deepest sorrow, foreign troops unavailingly imported, and expensively maintained within this kingdom, while your majesty's faithful subjects are unarmed and rejected; who innately brave, and cordially interested, would strenuously defend your sacred majesty, and their now endangered country.

These melancholy reflections fill us with fear and amazement; and our allegiance to your majesty, and love of our native country, once the arbitress of Europe, induce us to unbosom our thoughts to your royal consideration;

not

not doubting redress of our grievances from a king, who loves to be esteemed the father of his people.

Permit us, therefore, most humbly to represent to your majesty, the absolute necessity of having our natural guards, a well-regulated **MILITIA**, upon the footing of the English constitution: and we likewise most humbly hope, from your majesty's known justice and goodness, that you will be pleased to direct such a speedy and strict enquiry into the conduct of all those who, when it was in their power, did not prevent our losses, but have conduced, or conspired, to overwhelm this nation, and your majesty's crown, with reproach and dishonour; that they may receive their due punishment which they so justly deserve.

The representation and request of the high sheriff, justices of the peace, gentlemen, clergy, and freeholders of the **COUNTY of ESSEX**; delivered to Sir John Abdy, Bart. and William Hervey, Esq; knights of the shire for the said county, at the general quarter sessions of the peace held at Chelmsford in the said county, the 5th of October, 1756.

Gentlemen,

**W**E take this opportunity to return you our most sincere acknowledgments, for your steady and disinterested regard for the honour and welfare of his majesty, and his government, and for your diligent attendance in parliament; as you thereby express the true and just sense of your electors, who are inviolably attached to his royal person and the succession of the crown in his illustrious house. And, as a farther evidence of a truly loyal affection, we cannot help representing to you the deep concern we are under (with the rest of our fellow-subjects) at the late national disgrace, and shameful loss of one of our most valuable possessions.

Your joining in a careful and steady enquiry into the causes of this great misfortune, cannot but oblige those whom you represent; as it may be a means (if rightly pursued) to prevent such mischiefs for the future.

Our late losses and disappointments are the more sensibly felt, as the very large supplies (of which this country bears

bears a heavy share) gave us reason to expect much better effects from them, especially as our navy was then so far superior to that of our enemy: but we fear that the force of this great article of our national strength has been, in some measure, lost to us, by keeping at home a larger part of it, for fear of an invasion, than would have been necessary, if our own people had been employed in a well-regulated **MILITIA**, for the guard and defence of our coasts.

Standing armies, and foreign troops, have not heretofore been thought the proper means to repel an invasion: they are grievously burthensome to the subject, always dangerous to the constitution, and, in every respect, disagreeable to the nation, as well as every way inadequate to the real service against our enemies, without the assistance of a greater part of our fleet, than ought to be confined for that purpose. Therefore, when a truly loyal, brave, and generous people, from every quarter, ardently desire that arms may be put into their hands for the defence of themselves, their families, their king, and their country, against the encroachments and attacks of a perfidious and dangerous enemy; we hope you will do all in your power to prevent the denial of so natural a right to a free people.

We the more earnestly request your affiduity in promoting a constitutional **MILITIA** for these good purposes, from a thorough conviction, that it would have as certain a tendency towards the securing the crown to his majesty, and his heirs, as to the preserving the liberties and properties of the subjects.

On Thursday the 7th of October, at a general meeting of the gentlemen, clergy, and freeholders of the **COUNTY OF DEVON**, assembled at the castle of Exeter, it was unanimously agreed, that the following application should be made to Sir William Courtenay and Sir Richard Warwick Bampfylde, Barts. their representatives in parliament.

Gentlemen,

**Y**OU are now, by a royal proclamation, summoned soon to attend your duty in parliament. In our present calamitous situation, we should be wanting to our country,

country, did we not call upon you, in this public manner, to promote a parliamentary enquiry into the causes of our present misfortunes, which have rendered us uneasy at home, and despicable abroad.

The loss of the important island of MINORCA can never be too much lamented: the defenceless condition, the unparalleled neglect of a place of that consequence to the naval strength and commercial interest of this kingdom, after repeated informations of the intended invasion, demand your most serious attention; and, not without reason, fill us with alarming apprehensions for our own safety. We require you, therefore, by that duty you owe your country, your king, and your God, to promote a strict and impartial enquiry into that conduct which has occasioned this great and national calamity. And we doubt not but you will use your utmost endeavours towards bringing to speedy justice all such as shall be found to have been betrayers of their king and country, however dignified, however distinguished.

Trade being the natural and principal support of these kingdoms in general, and in particular of that part you so worthily represent, we do in the most solemn manner call upon you likewise to promote, to the utmost of your power, an enquiry into the reasons why supplies, so chearfully given for the defence of his majesty's dominions in AMERICA, have been rendered in effectual.

A constitutional and well-regulated national MILITIA merits likewise your serious consideration, the settling of which in the most effectual manner for the real service of the nation, we most heartily recommend to you; as we look upon an establishment of this kind to be the best security, under God, of the safety and prosperity of this kingdom, and what will preserve quiet at home, and command respect abroad, without the burthensome interposition of foreign subsidies.

Consider yourselves as part of the representative body of a free people; continue to preserve your own, and promote the independency of parliament, by which alone the great blessing of liberty, and whatever else is dear and valuable to a people, can be secured to this nation in the present and future ages.

Consider yourselves called together for other ends, than to raise money from the people; and with that view endeavour, as far as in you lies, that the consideration and

redress of public grievances, if they cannot precede, may at least go hand in hand with that of a public supply.

To the right honourable Heneage Finch, Esq; commonly called Lord Guernsey, and Gabriel Hanger, Esq; representatives in parliament for the BOROUGH of MAIDSTONE in the county of Kent.

WE the mayor, jurats, and commonalty of the king's town and parish of Maidstone in the county of Kent, in common-council assembled, in order to exert our undoubted right of applying to our representatives in parliament upon all important occasions, do take the opportunity of returning you our sincere and most grateful acknowledgements for the assiduity, candour, and integrity with which you have in all things discharged the trust committed to you, and in a particular manner for your strenuous assistance and hearty concurrence in passing the late salutary bill for procuring to us a MILITIA.

And though neither your endeavours at that time, nor the unanimity and zeal with which the house of commons passed the said bill, had the desired effect, yet the present critical situation of affairs both at home and abroad, the loss of his majesty's island of MINORCA, the imminent danger of his possessions in AMERICA, the meditated invasion of this kingdom, and every circumstance which united the house of commons in one sense of the necessity of passing such a bill, having since the recess of parliament increased upon us, must surely now convince every sincere friend to the present happy establishment of the utility of such a law.

Under these alarming circumstances, though we do not entertain the least doubt of your principles of loyalty, liberty, and public spirit, we think it inconsistent with that duty we owe to his most gracious majesty and our native country to neglect this opportunity of awakening all your attention, and to exhort and conjure you, in the most earnest manner, to exert yourselves to the utmost of your power, and to use all practicable and probable methods for obtaining, in the next session of parliament, a well-regulated MILITIA, the most natural and certain defence,

defence, under divine providence, of our king and country; as thereby (besides the millions of money saved to the nation) his majesty's fleets and armies may be securely employed abroad, to the annoying and distressing our enemies; whilst such a **MILITIA**, a **MILITIA** composed of Britons armed for their own defence, animated by their duty and affection to his most sacred majesty, their king, their father, and their guardian, and by the love of liberty and their country, must render Great-Britain truly formidable, and, by the blessing of the Almighty, effectually enable his majesty to assert the honour of his crown and kingdom, frustrate the pernicious schemes of all his enemies, and secure our shores from every hostile attack.

We likewise trust that you will steadily and uniformly pursue all such other measures as conduce to the stability of his majesty's government, the protection of our trade, and the safety, honour, and true interest of this kingdom.

We also promise ourselves that you will promote, as far as in you lies, the bringing to justice such persons as have been wanting in their duty to his majesty and their country.

As to ourselves, we beg leave to assure you that we are ready and willing, when called upon by his majesty, to assist with our lives and fortunes in the support of his person and government.

Dated at our town-hall in Maidstone, under our common-seal, the 21st day of September, 1756.

Instructions from the high sheriff, gentry, clergy, and freeholders of the COUNTY of **LINCOLN**, met at Lincoln, October 12, 1756; to their representatives in parliament, Robert Vyner, and Thomas Whichcot, Esqrs.

**P**ERMIT us, gentlemen, in the present alarming situation of affairs, to lay open, with freedom, our sentiments before you, and to claim that privilege which every British elector has a constitutional right to exert: as we have committed to your trust all that is dear and valuable in society, the regard due to our liberties not only calls upon us to observe your proceedings, but to point out to your notice what conduct, we think, will prove

advantageous, and what detrimental, to the general interest: the public cannot flourish, without imparting its prosperity; it cannot fail to decay, without spreading its distresses to every member of the community.

We saw, with pleasure, the spirit and unanimity with which the encroachments of France were resented; the cheerful concurrence of parliament, to grant his majesty the most effectual supplies, and to strengthen the hands of his government by repeated and convincing proofs of loyalty, gratitude, and confidence: we flattered ourselves, from the vast sums raised, and the mighty preparations made, that the war would be carried on with proportional vigour; and that we should return the insults, and humble the arrogance of our restless and inveterate enemy; but these expectations soon deceived us, and vanished; our designs proved abortive, or were baffled and derided; our army was destroyed in AMERICA, and our provinces left exposed to the inroads of barbarians; the British flag has been dishonoured in the Mediterranean, and the important island of MINORCA snatched from our possession.

Such a series of disappointments and misfortunes must turn the attention of every person who deserves the name of an Englishman, and awaken him to consider the prospect that surrounds him. The strange and confused measures that have been pursued, still aggravate our apprehensions, and compel us, gentlemen, to have recourse to your assistance; and to intreat, in the most earnest manner, that you would promote an enquiry into the conduct of those who have been employed in this war, and the conduct of them who have directed its operations; that you would particularly insist upon knowing, why MINORCA was abandoned to the invasion of France, and its garrison not reinforced? why a fleet, at least, was not sent earlier to its succour? and why that fleet, when it did sail, was not composed of a larger number of ships?

You will be pleased, at the same time, carefully to examine the accounts of the public treasure: a demand of this sort comes with some propriety from a meeting of freeholders, whose lands are oppressed with the heaviest burdens; who really bear the greatest share of all taxes; and whose fate is attached to, and connected with, the fate of their country.

Our

Our money was given to maintain the honour of the British crown, and secure the happiness and independence of these kingdoms: to these purposes, and these only, we hope, it has been applied; and not squandered away in unavailing bargains on the continent; or diverted from its proper use, to defend the dominions of princes we have no concern with.

The last and strongest thing, gentlemen, we would recommend to your consideration is, the establishment of a **MILITIA**, the original defence of this nation, and the only method in appearance, that can save us from the approaches of ruin. It is impossible to support such a standing army as would be sufficient to guard us against the perpetual designs of our enemy; it is impossible to rely on the aid of foreign mercenaries, without finding the consequence, at length, most fatal: for the history of all ages informs us, that this mistaken policy has never failed to bring the people, who continued it, to certain destruction; they have either been plundered and enslaved, by the very troops they had hired for their protection; or, disused to the practice of arms, and lost in luxury and indolence, have fallen an easy prey to the first enterprising power that attacked them.

To Robert Vyner and Thomas Whichcot, Esqs;  
representatives in parliament for the **COUNTY**  
of **LINCOLN**.

S I R S,

**H**aving seen in the public papers an advertisement from the high sheriff, desiring a meeting of the gentlemen of this county at Lincoln; we, the justices, gentlemen, clergy, and others, assembled at the general quarter sessions of the peace for the parts of Holland, holden at Boston and Spalding, and who, by private business, are prevented from attending at Lincoln, beg leave, in this manner, to convey our sentiments to you our representatives in parliament upon the declared occasion of the ensuing meeting.

We are extremely sensible of the many great and princely qualities of our royal sovereign, and have the greatest confidence in his majesty's known care for the honour and interest of this nation, and of his good and gracious

gracious intentions in all respects towards his subjects in these kingdoms ; all which considerations make us the more deeply affected, to find these promising advantages so greatly defeated by the ill conduct of those who, not animated by the same principles, have contributed to the immense loss and dishonour brought upon this nation in the Mediterranean seas, and by the too apparent neglect of our important interest in AMERICA. As these are matters of such great and national concern, we trust they will not be lightly passed over the ensuing sessions ; but that you, and the other representatives of this kingdom, will concur in all possible endeavours to discover and pursue to punishment all those by whose ill conduct we are brought to this unhappy and disgraceful situation ; that the people who have chearfully contributed to the most disagreeable and burthensome taxes towards this necessary war, may obtain justice upon those who have so entirely defeated the good ends and designs proposed from them.

The introducing of foreign troops at an immense expence into this nation, will ever be a measure justly attended with jealousy and uneasiness to the people of this land ; for, besides the too great probability, that in case of need they would prove ineffectual for the purposes expected, the precedent is of dangerous consequence, and may hereafter prove fatal to the liberties of this country, under a prince of different views and principles from those of his present majesty : permit us, therefore, to express our earnest hopes, and to recommend, that you will use your influence for the establishment of a national and well-regulated MILITIA, as the antient and natural defence of these kingdoms.

We cannot, gentlemen, conclude this letter, without taking notice of a circumstance, said to attend these foreign troops, of a most extraordinary, and almost incredible nature ; viz. that a power has been assumed, unknown to this constitution, of exempting them from the influence of the laws of this kingdom ; an article of such dangerous and alarming tendency ! that we are unwilling to expatiate upon it, or even to believe that it does really subsist ; but should it be found to be so, we cannot, in justice to our country, but hope it will meet with all the resentment becoming those who are so much interested as you are, in the safety, freedom, and independence of your country. We are, SIRS,

Oct. 7, 1756.

Your most obedient servants.

On Saturday, October 16th, the following address from the mayor, aldermen, and common-council of the CITY of EXETER, was presented to his majesty at Kensington, by Mr. Serjeant Davy.

To the K I N G's most excellent majesty.

May it please your majesty,

WE your majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the mayor, aldermen, and common council, of your city of Exeter, in chamber assembled, most humbly beg leave to approach your royal throne; and from a full conviction of that warmth and tenderness with which your majesty, like the true father of your people, embraces all their interests, and enters into all their disquietudes, are encouraged to lay before your majesty those alarming apprehensions, which we cannot but feel from the fatal and unexpected disasters which have attended the beginning of this most just and necessary war.

The loss of the island of MINORCA, with its most important harbour and fortress, so necessary to the support of our power and influence, and the protection of our trade in the Mediterranean seas, in which trade this city is more particularly interested, will, we are convinced, in its consequences, be found to be a very heavy calamity. But the circumstances that attended that loss; the delay in providing for the security of this inestimable possession, when an armament was, for a long time, preparing in its neighbourhood, notoriously intended to invade it; the tardy and sparing measures taken for its relief; the astonishing retreat of a British fleet apparently sent to succour it, before a French squadron of a force confessedly not superior; the loss of the national reputation, and the indelible disgrace thereby brought on the British flag: these circumstances, so surprizing that they scarce seem credible, must of necessity highly aggravate our terrors, and fill us with the most melancholy forebodings as to the future events of a war, in which every thing dear and valuable to this nation is at stake.

In this dejected situation our chief remaining hope is in your majesty's personal steadiness vigilance and resolution, and

and in that love of justice by which your majesty's character is so eminently distinguished: in these your royal virtues we entirely confide; and, with the fullest assurance, are persuaded that your majesty will cause the strictest enquiry to be made, who are the authors and instruments of our present distress? and if any person shall be found, either to have trifled with the most essential interests of the nation, from wanton negligence, or inexcusable inactivity, or to have made a sacrifice of them to cowardice, or any still worse motive, that they will be brought to adequate punishment; not only to satisfy the just resentments of an injured people, but to establish such an example, as may effectually convince every person entrusted with any part of the public administration, that no influence will be powerful enough to protect, no connections sufficiently extensive to screen the man, who shall, for the future, dare to be deficient in his duty, or to separate his own interests from those of the nation.

Deeply penetrated with the sense of the many and great blessings we enjoy under your majesty's mild and gracious government, and of the imminent hazards to which they are exposed, from the near neighbourhood of a most potent and highly incensed enemy; we cannot restrain our wishes from breaking out before your majesty, that this nation might be enabled to exert its natural strength in the defence of its dearest interests, by the establishment of a constitutional and well-regulated MILITIA. Whenever your majesty, in conjunction with your great council in parliament, shall think fit to add this most effectual provision to those already made for our security, the formidable army which threatens us from the opposite coasts, will cease to be an object of apprehension; our naval superiority will be no longer imaginary, but become real and effective; and we may reasonably hope, with the divine blessing on the justice of our cause, for such successes as may speedily oblige our haughty enemy to acquiesce in the terms of a safe and honourable peace; and relieve this nation from the burden of an expence, which nothing can render supportable but the absolute necessity of the occasion, and a well-grounded confidence, that that occasion will be of no long continuance.

On Monday October 18th, the following address from the high sheriff, clergy and freeholders of the COUNTY of LINCOLN, was presented to his majesty at Kensington by Thomas Whichcote and Robert Vyner, Esqrs. their representatives.

To the K I N G's most excellent majesty.

**W**E, your majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the high sheriff, gentry, clergy, and freeholders of the county of Lincoln, assembled at Lincoln upon the present critical conjuncture of affairs, most humbly beg leave to assure your majesty of our unfeigned duty and inviolable attachment to your majesty's sacred person and royal authority ; and with thankful hearts to acknowledge your majesty's paternal care and vigilance for the honour of the nation, and the general good of your subjects.

Convinced as we are, that nothing has been wanting on your majesty's part, towards the attainment of these great and glorious ends, permit us, royal Sir, to express our concern at the miscarriages, and our astonishment and indignation at the strong appearances of misconduct that have attended the prosecution of this just and necessary war, whether by delays, ignorance, treachery, disobedience or cowardice, whereby an indelible reproach has been brought upon the honour of the nation, of which the loss of MINORCA, one of the many trophies of British valour, and the imminent danger of your majesty's dominions in AMERICA, the chief object of the war, and the basis of our commerce, are undeniable and melancholy instances : under the present alarming circumstances, next to our most humble, but cheerful reliance upon the protection and blessing of almighty God on your majesty's councils fleets and armies, we depend upon your majesty's wisdom and justice for the detection and exemplary punishment of any persons who shall be found to have been wanting in their duty to your majesty and their country.

And we assure your majesty we will chearfully contribute our fortunes, and expose our lives, for the defence of our most dear religion liberties and country, and of your majesty's person and illustrious family ; at the same time lamenting that we are not enabled effectually so to do, by

a well-regulated CONSTITUTIONAL MILITIA, which the present exigency so loudly calls for, and which will prevent our any longer depending on the dangerous and uncertain aid of foreign forces.

Instructions from the gentry, clergy, and freeholders of the COUNTY of YORK, to their representatives in parliament, the right honourable Lord Down, and Sir Conyers Darcy, knight of the Bath.

**A**S the approaching winter, if we may judge from the necessity of the times, and the seasonable expostulations of the people, is likely to become a session of much business and reformation, we most earnestly recommend to you a diligent attendance on parliament, and an active scrutiny into all those dire and fatal springs of our military disasters, and perplexed negotiations, which have brought such indignity and burden upon these abused realms.

The extremity, long predicted, seems now to advance with hasty strides. It is, alas ! a truth which every voice authenticates ; and therefore your constituents conjure, that you will be the faithful and honest counsellors of royalty ; and be no longer amused with the subtle projects and venal speeches of self-designing men, who, in proportion as they promise and dispense, only attempt to enslave, and become the prodigal spendthrifts of our patrimonies and acquirements.

That the welfare of this country may not be totally unhinged, either through our crimes, or the abuse of secondary means, we hope, that you will not only endeavour to introduce a change of men, but of morals and measures ; that the rank enormities, which deluge this land, may not be laid to the charge and examples of its magistrates and senators ; that VENALITY and GAMING, the bane of business, and the ruin of integrity, may, in particular, no longer make their profelytes to servile dependence, or press into their service advocates for foreign and pernicious systems.

We farther lament, for the sake of ourselves, and the illustrious family on the throne, that when, through the fate of human nature, his most gracious majesty shall be demanded to other glory, that the heir apparent must succeed to so disadvantageous a prospect ; we mean, to so immense

immense a debt, as makes each proprietor tremble, and each individual sad.

Let it then be your constant endeavours, by all equitable means, to make this burthen light, and this yoke easy: and if a continent must be supplied; if our spoils must be shared; let AMERICA partake, rather than ungrateful Germany, the sepulchre of British interest.

It is with no little concern we find those to be the open tenets now, which formerly were, with some modesty and address, concealed. But we apprehend, and it is hoped you also will conceive it, that where the interest of two estates, centering in the same person, interfere, that the lesser should give way, and be subservient to the greater: This is the manifest rule of right, the most usual and natural expectation.

This loyal and martial country, the leader in a late season of danger, the first in rank for opulence extent and natural advantages, presumes farther to advise, that you will oppose (unless exigencies change) all future schemes of receiving foreign mercenaries into this land; and, that a constitutional MILITIA, with our own troops, may supply the occasions for which aliens were imported; and that we may have no farther cause to fear, and say, with Mattathias, God forbid that we should forsake the law and the ordinances.

We think it superfluous to ask your enquiry into the nature of those measures which have deprived our Mediterranean fleet of a home, and trade of its protection: a loss, that has reduced considerably the use, and good effects of our naval power; and given the enemy such advantages, as Britain will severely feel, as well throughout the war, as on the balancing day of accompt. In a word; so just and strong a satire on government, and naval command, as the loss of that essential place, is what this country has not before experienced. We confide, for investigation and impartial justice, in the royal promise; your indignation, gentlemen, on this event, we know, cannot be exceeded. What instances of deserved complaint we have omitted, your own feelings and reflections will supply.

October 19, 1756. At the general quarter sessions held at Taunton for the COUNTY of SOMERSET, many gentlemen, clergy, and freeholders, of the said county, agreed to the following representation and instructions to the knights of the shire.

To Sir Charles Kemeys Tynte, Bart. and Thomas Prowse, Esq; representatives in parliament for the COUNTY of SOMERSET.

GENTLEMEN,

WE your constituents, truly sensible of the service you have endeavoured to do your country in parliament, by your zealous and constitutional conduct there, take this opportunity of returning you our thanks.

At the same time we beg leave to lay before you how deeply we are affected with the present deplorable situation of our foreign and domestic affairs. How unhappy must it make every honest and generous Briton to find, that, notwithstanding the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, our trade, rights, and our most invaluable privileges are not effectually secured to us? for no sooner were we pleasing ourselves with the thoughts of peace and tranquility, but we were alarmed with the agumentation of the naval force of our enemies, and our colonies in AMERICA were claimed, encroached upon, and hostilely invaded; and all this permitted without the least inquiry made, or resentment shewn, by those who had the conduct of our public affairs. — A supineness unaccountable and unparalleled!

But greatly aggravated is our concern, when we reflect on the loss of MINORCA, an island so important to the commerical interest of this nation; which through the same unpardonable neglect (to speak no worse of it) is now in the possession of France, our ambitious and perfidious neighbour.

It is a matter of great astonishment to find, that neither of the governors of the Mediterranean fortresses were resident at their respective stations, although they continued to receive

ceive their salaries, as if upon actual duty ; and this, when an attack was foreseen and expected.

It was with great chearfulness we contributed to the vast supplies raised for vigorously carrying on the present war ; and we were in hopes that our national troops (some of which voluntarily enlisted in this and a neighbouring country, only to defend their native country, against an invasion then supposed to be meditating) would have been sufficient to answer the end proposed : but we are sorry to have so soon perceived, that an army of foreign mercenaries was thought necessary, who, we are told, are by treaty not to be subject to our law, though we know of no dispensing power that can exempt them from it.

We could wish that the proposal for a national **MILITIA** (the constitutional land force of this kingdom) had not been rejected.

The great number of unnecessary places and pensions, so lavishly conferred at a time when the nation groans under a load of debts, and is involved in difficulties to raise even the annual supplies, is a matter that deserves your particular and serious attention.

These, firs, are grievances which give us the greatest uneasiness ; and we make no doubt but you will use your endeavours to enquire into and redress them, and, to bring to justice such who have been the cause of these our distresses ; that you will demand of those, who have been entrusted with the public money, how the great sums voted and raised by votes of credit have been applied ; and this will encourage us chearfully to exert ourselves to the utmost, and, if occasion requires, to sacrifice our lives and fortunes in defence of our king and country.

On Thursday October 28, 1756, the inhabitants of the **BOROUGH** of **SOUTHWARK** being met at the town-hall, unanimously agreed to address his majesty, and desire William Belchier and William Hammond, Esqrs. their representatives, to present the same ; to whom they also gave the following instructions :

**GENTLEMEN,**  
**W**E take this opportunity of expressing our satisfaction and thanks for your diligent attendance in parliament, and your attachment to his majesty's person and govern-

government in a ready concurrence to those supplies which the necessity of affairs so justly required; but we beg leave, at the same time, to recommend to your strictest enquiry how these immense sums have been appropriated.

The fatal loss of the valuable island of MINORCA, the late disgrace of the British flag in the Mediterranean, and the want of timely care for the support of our colonies in AMERICA, furnish us with matter of the utmost astonishment and concern, and urge us to request your most particular examination into the causes of these misfortunes, and to exert yourselves in bringing all delinquents to justice.

Permit us to desire you again to repeat your endeavours for obtaining a well regulated MILITIA, which will not only prevent the necessity of calling foreign forces to our assistance, but enable us to defend our king and country against all invaders in the most natural and effectual manner, and give his majesty's navy a greater opportunity of acting offensively against the common enemy.

Instructions from the CITY of LONDON  
to its representatives in parliament.

To the right honourable Slingsby Bethell, Esq; Lord-Mayor, Sir John Barnard, Knt. Sir Robert Ladbroke, Knt. and William Beckford, Esq;

**W**E, the lord-mayor, aldermen, and commons of the CITY of LONDON, in common council assembled, justly alarmed at the critical and unhappy situation of these kingdoms, do most earnestly call upon you, our representatives, to exert your utmost ability towards procuring a strict and impartial parliamentary inquiry into the causes of these national calamities.

An almost total neglect of our important fortresses in the Mediterranean, of such inestimable consequence to the trade and power of these kingdoms, and the permitted absence of their principal officers many months after the commencement of hostilities, the actual loss of MINORCA, and apparent danger of Gibraltar, are circumstances which fill us with amazement and concern: but when we reflect on the great preparations for an embarkation of troops and

artil-

artillery, and the equipment of a powerful fleet publicly known to be carried on at Toulon, whose neighbourhood to MINORCA was sufficiently alarming, we cannot impute these fatal events to neglect alone; and therefore conjure you to inquire, why a respectable fleet was not immediately sent from hence, and why at last so small a squadron was ordered upon this important service, without any frigate, fire-ship, hospital-ship, transport, or troops beyond their ordinary compliment, and this at a time when our naval force was confessedly superior to the enemy's.

The cruelties suffered and losses sustained, by our fellow subjects in NORTH AMERICA, have long called for redress; whilst the mismanagement in the attempts for their support, and the untimely and unequal succours sent to their relief, have only served to render the British name contemptible: we therefore require you, to use your utmost endeavours for detecting all those, who, by treachery or misconduct, have contributed to those great distresses; his majesty having been graciously pleased to assure us, that he will not fail to do justice upon ANY persons, who shall have been wanting in their duty to him and their country.

To these interesting enquiries, we have but too much reason to add our pressing request, that you will use your earliest endeavours to establish a well regulated and constitutional MILITIA, as the most honourable defence of the crown, and the most consistent with the rights of a free people. And this we are more anxious to recommend to your particular care and attention, as every apprehension of danger has furnished a reason for increasing the number of our regular forces, and for the introduction of foreign mercenaries, the expence of which is insupportable. We therefore trust that you will pursue this measure before you consent to the grant of supplies; experience having convinced us, that your laudable endeavours afterwards may prove fruitless.

The insult offered to our laws by a claim of exemption which these foreigners are said to have made, demands that you strictly inquire, whether the ordinary course of justice has been interrupted or suspended on their account; or whether any person in authority under his majesty has given countenance to such a claim; which if you should discover, we confide in your resolution and integrity, that nothing will be wanting, on your part, to bring to justice the advisers and instruments of such a violation of the bill of rights,

as

as the only means of quieting the minds of his majesty's loyal British subjects: and at all events we recommend it to you, to oppose the continuance of any foreign troops within the kingdom, a circumstance which must ever be considered as a reproach to the loyalty courage and ability of this nation.

We also hope, that you will endeavour to limit the number of PLACEMEN and PENSIONERS, of late so remarkably increased; and at a proper season to restore TRIENNIAL PARLIAMENTS, as we conceive it the only means to obtain a free representative of the people.

The immense sums so chearfully paid, when almost every measure reflects national disgrace, call upon you strictly to enquire into their application; and we trust that you will carefully watch and endeavour to prevent all unnatural connections on the continent, in order to preserve the independency of these kingdoms.

By rendering these necessary services to your king and country, you will give his majesty the strongest testimony of your duty and affection, and most effectually secure to his government obedience and respect.

At the same time we desire you thus publicly to accept our most grateful acknowledgements of your past conduct in parliament; and enjoin you at all times to hold sacred and inviolable the act made for establishing his majesty's right to the crown of these realms, and securing the rights and liberties of the subject; and that you oppose every measure tending to weaken that compact, which, under the divine providence, will ever prove the best security to his majesty's sacred person and the succession in his illustrious house.

On Monday November 1st, the following address of the mayor, aldermen, town-clerk, and common council of the BOROUGH of BOSTON in Lincolnshire, was presented to his majesty at Kensington, by Charles Amcotts, Esq; one of their representatives, accompanied by John Michell and Richard Fydell, Esqrs.

**W**E, your majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the mayor, aldermen, town clerk, and common-council of your antient borough of Boston, in common-hall

hall assembled, most humbly beg leave to renew our protestations of duty, and to assure your majesty, that no disappointments which may attend this just and necessary war, shall in the least abate our zeal for your majesty's service: but they shall rather strengthen and confirm our resolutions to support your majesty in the vindication of your undoubted right to the crown of these realms, and all the dominions and possessions thereto belonging, to the utmost of our lives and fortunes.

Permit us, however, royal Sir, to express our utmost concern and resentment to find the gracious endeavours of your majesty to promote the honour and welfare of these kingdoms, so entirely frustrated (as appears to us) by the ignorance or iniquity of those who have contributed to bring this nation into its present disgraceful situation, who have suffered the important island of MINORCA to be taken from us, attended with most shameful circumstances, and our possessions in AMERICA, the great source of our wealth and commerce, to be rendered precarious and uncertain by a manifest disregard to their safety and interests.

With hearts deeply touched by these affecting considerations, we confide alone in your majesty's known goodness, and humbly depend that the just expectations of your people will be answered by your majesty's directing an earnest and effectual enquiry into the cause of these national calamities, that the true authors of them may be made answerable to the justice of the nation for the injuries they have brought upon their country.

The general ardour expressed amongst your majesty's subjects of all ranks and degrees, in support of your royal person and family, affords the most encouraging opportunity for restoring the antient and natural defence of these kingdoms, by the establishment of a constitutional and well-regulated MILITIA, which, therefore, we earnestly hope to see effected by the wisdom of parliament, as the best means to obviate jealousies and fears in the minds of your majesty's loyal subjects, by rendering unnecessary the future introduction of foreign troops, at the same time to form an effectual safeguard and security for your majesty's royal person, and for the preserving the crown of these realms in your illustrious house, by which alone we can hope to preserve freedom and independence to ourselves, and to transmit those invaluable blessings to our posterity.

The two following articles were taken from the London Evening Post of Tuesday November 2d.

To the AUTHOR, &c.

SIR,

THE inclosed instructions were given to the members of a court borough in the west, and returned by them to the burgesses. We therefore send you the copy to publish, as a justification of our duty, and a monument of their defection. Indeed, the traffick some of our unworthy brother voters have made of their privileges, has brought upon us this insult. May we in future times learn from this rebuke some wisdom, ere a total extinction of our privileges takes place.

We are, Sir, yours. &c.

THE electors who now address you, though late in application, are equal in loyalty with those which have preceeded us. The love and duty we are convinced you entertain for your sovereign and your country, almost annihilate the necessity of these our instructions. (How happy for the common cause would it have been, if the conduct of our rulers, when it was in their power, had but cancelled the occasions of remonstrances ?) But, that our most gracious king may hear the genuine sentiments of his people, and feel the good effects of better measures, we join with our fellow-subjects, in hopes that you will exert your utmost ability in parliament, to remove all those impediments which tend to give his majesty anxiety, retard the wheels of government, debilitate our arms, and have so basely injured the honour, credit, and resources of these kingdoms.

We, in particular, lament the unpropitious fate and conduct of our arms on the twentieth of May: that after the fleet's arrival at the scene of action, when the preservation of MINORCA, the contraction of the war, and the happiness of millions, depended on the event, we discarded all the means of insuring, nay of deserving success; a matter of astonishment only to be equalled by the infatuated delay of the destination and smallness of the equipment.

Other

Other disasters may have owed their rise to impenetrable secrecy, stratagem, or surprize, on the part of the enemy: but those circumstances, nor the elements, nor yet animosity among commanders (a rock upon which the public affairs have sometimes unhappily split) can in this fatal instance be assigned. Hence it is our request, that you will trace minutely the steps of these defaults, as well as the negligences committed in the affairs of AMERICA, and steadily urge to punish every delinquent that enquiry shall detect.

Let the accounts of the public be carefully examined; and beware that the arts of office, too apt to palliate and misstate under direction and influence, may not deceive you, through specious appearances and customary expedients: and lastly, let Britons defend Britons, and only fight a British cause.

These advices, we presume, if executed, will greatly strengthen the hands of government (as the contrary will but weaken and destroy;) for solid acts and upright measures, can only give duration to power.

Thus your constituents freely communicate their thoughts, and leave each disinterested person room to judge, who best deserve the title of substantial friends and loyal subjects; those who point to evils and propose their remedies, or others who either sink or adulterate the truth and commence inglorious neuters; or become the implicit mutes of persons who, by constant subterfuge, are only shifting the scene from themselves, and rendering it daily more difficult for wise and honest men to govern.

To the A U T H O R, &c.

SIR,

THE inclosed is a copy of an address to the king that was lately intended to be sent from a corporation, which some of the Ald----n put a negative upon, as a thing not proper to be complied with. The inserting it will do justice to many of the community, and oblige several of

Your readers.

Most gracious sovereign,

**P**ERMIT the mayor, sheriffs, aldermen, and common-council of your antient city of \*\*\*\*\*, to approach your sacred person with hearts full of concern for the losſ this nation has sustained, by a late infamous defeat: and at the same time be graciously pleased to accept our grateful acknowledgements of your majesty's paternal care for the true interest of your ſubjects, expreſſed in your majesty's resolutions (under the bleſſing of God) to recover and ſecure all your rights and poſſeſſions, to protect the commerce of these kingdoms, to enforce obedience to your government, and to puniſh all who dare be wanting in their duty: and we humbly hope an impartial enquiry will be made into the application of the money which has been ſo chearfully raifed; and that our antient conſtitution may be reſtored, as the beſt means of effecting these deſirabie ends.

We beg leave to expreſſ our deteſtation and abhorrence of the daſtardly or wicked authors of the indignity offered to your majesty, and the disgrace that has been brought upon the nation; and to affure your majesty, that we will affiduouſly exert ourelfes in whatevver may tend to vindicate the honour of your majesty's crown, and the endleſſ ſucceſſion of it in your illuſtrious house, in opposition to the foreign and doſtomic enemis of both.

The humble address of the mayor and commonalty of the CITY of YORK; preſented to his majesty at Kenſington by George Fox Lane, Esq; one of the repreſentatives in parliament for, and alderman of, the ſaid city.

To the K I N G's moſt excellent majesty.

Most gracious sovereign,

**W**E your majesty's dutiful and loyall ſubjects, the mayor and commonalty of the city of York, in common council aſſembled, preſuming upon your majesty's conſtant care for the intereſts of your people, beg leave to expreſſ the ſorrow and anxiety of our hearts for our late grievous losſes and diſappointments, with which,

as with all the misfortunes of your subjects, your royal breast must be deeply affected.

The opportunity which providence had put into our hands for subduing the enemies of your majesty and your kingdoms, and for obtaining a safe and honourable peace, has not only been tamely and ignominiously lost, but a most fatal and unparralleled blow has been given to the honour of your majesty's fleets, and the security and protection of our trade and commerce.

We forbear to add to the solicitude of your royal mind, by dwelling upon another subject of general concern, the unprosperous state of our inestimable colonies in AMERICA, notwithstanding the timely and liberal supplies so chearfully granted for their support.

The sense of these great and unaccountable miscarriages, and of your majesty's gracious intentions for the welfare of your people, prompts us to apply to your sacred person for the means of our relief: and we doubt not but your majesty will be pleased to direct a strict enquiry to be made into the authors and causes of our present misfortunes, that those being brought to justice, and these effectually removed, the honour of the British name may be retrieved, and your majesty's glory, and the true interest of your people, may, for the future, be faithfully and steadily maintained.

For the obtaining securing and perpetuating these great and important ends, we ardently wish for and desire a constitutional and well-regulated MILITIA, by which we may be enabled to despise the threats of our enemies, and to defend your majesty and our country in the day of danger.

And we most humbly assure your majesty, that your antient and loyal city of York will not be out-done by any of your subjects in duty and affection to your sacred person and government, or in a firm and disinterested zeal for the advancement of your majesty's just power and greatness, and the recovery and defence of the rights and possessions of your crown.

The following address was presented November 14th to his majesty, by the two representatives for the BOROUGH of SOUTHWARK.

To the K I N G's most excellent majesty.

The humble address of the inhabitants of the Borough of Southwark.

WE your majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, humbly beg leave to assure your majesty of our inviolable affection and attachment to your majesty's royal person, family, and government, and that we are, and will be, ready at all times, to give the strongest proofs of our most determined resolutions to support and defend those wise and equitable views which have ever engaged your majesty's attention.

But permit us, most gracious sovereign, at this critical conjuncture, with the greatest humility, to express how deeply we are affected and concerned to find our hopes of success against the inveterate and implacable enemy of these kingdoms frustrated, and the glory of your majesty's arms eclipsed, by the total loss of that valuable island MINORCA, at a time too when our naval power so eminently exceeded that of our enemy, and the destination of theirs had been so long apparent. We cannot reflect on this and other fatal events, without the greatest degree of grief and amazement.

Steadfast in our allegiance, unalterable in our loyalty, unanimous in the defence of your majesty's sacred person and government, and animated with a just sense of your majesty's martial virtues, if supported by a well regulated MILITIA, we fear not the vain threats of foreign invaders; and most humbly beg leave to assure your majesty, with the greatest sincerity, that we will chearfully devote the utmost exertion of our abilities to crush all impious attempts, either foreign or domestic, to subvert our present happy constitution; and also to support and invigorate those measures which your majesty's great wisdom shall dictate in conducting the scenes of this most necessary and important war, and for bringing to justice those, however dignified and exalted, who by their bad council or misconduct have occasioned this unforeseen ignoble and distressed situation.

To

To the right honourable George Augustus Lord Viscount Howe, and Sir Willoughby Aston, Bart. representatives in parliament for the Town and County of the Town of NOTTINGHAM.

WE the gentlemen, principal burgesses, and freeholders of the town and county of the town of Nottingham, presume to offer some advice upon the present unhappy posture of our national affairs, to your serious consideration, not doubting but that you will have integrity and resolution sufficient to endeavour to redress them.

MINORCA has been taken from us, either through cowardice, treachery, or unpardonable ignorance; and therefore we ardently wish, that you may be able to bring to condign punishment those who may be found to deserve it.

Our AMERICAN colonies have been shamefully neglected; whilst those supplies, which have been so chearfully granted, have been lavishly expended to support foreign mercenaries; an everlasting reflection upon the fidelity of his majesty's British and loyal subjects; who, by a proper MILITIA bill, may be rendered useful, and able to oppose all the enemies of their royal master, both foreign and domestic.

Our grievances cannot be more effectually redressed than by having a parliament free and independent: septennial parliaments have long been the destruction of that liberty, and therefore triennial ones must by a necessary remedy.

The taxes of this nation are burdensome, and almost intolerable; the great increase of placemen and pensioners have unnecessarily contributed to this expence; we hope, therefore, that not only their number may be diminished, but even their names may be erased out of the list of a British parliament.

The necessities of the poor at this time are very urgent, which we have but too much reason to believe may justly be attributed to the imposition of the millers, bakers, and engrossers of corn; we therefore beg leave to offer their grievances as a proper object for a parliamentry inquiry.

We

We should not have been so dilatory in offering our sentiments, had we not expected that the members of this loyal corporation would have been amongst the FIRST of those who would have consulted for the interest and happiness of this once flourishing kingdom ; but we hope yet to see our antient and glorious monarch, who has been so long and so deservedly stiled the father of his country, triumph over his public, and confound his secret enemies.

Instructions from the corporation of the CITY of NEW SARUM, to their representatives in parliament, the honourable William Bouverie, and Julines Beckford, Esq;

**A**S you have hitherto discharged your trust in parliament with an unbiassed integrity, it would be doing you injustice to suspect your future conduct ; but, so deplorable is the present state of our national affairs ! that we think it our duty as well as our right, to let you know our sentiments in this perilous and critical conjuncture.

From the extraordinary supplies, so unanimously granted, and so chearfully borne by the people (though burdened with an almost insupportable load of taxes) for a vigorous prosecution of this necessary war, they might reasonably have promised themselves a proportionable share of success. How little their just expectations have been answered, is but too melancholy a reflection ! And though, in the natural course of things, there must be many accidents, which neither human prudence nor policy can foresee or prevent ; yet there are so many glaring and notorious circumstances of misconduct attending our late miscarriages in the Mediterranean and our AMERICAN colonies, that we cannot, without violence to our understandings, impute them to any other cause, than the negligence or incapacity (to say no worse) of those, who have been too long entrusted with the chief direction of our public affairs.

We earnestly, therefore, recommend it to you, that at the approaching sessions, you make the strictest enquiry, in order to discover the authors of these our misfortunes ; that they may be brought to an exemplary punishment, which (though far from being an adequate) will be some satisfaction to an abused and injured nation.

And

And, as from past experience, we may expect various artifices will be made use of, to skreen those great offenders, and elude that justice which they have so much reason to dread ; it behoves you, at this particular juncture, to be more than ordinary vigilant in guarding against all attempts of this sort, as they may be productive of the most fatal consequences : for, should they succeed, others may be emboldened to tread in the iniquitous steps of their predecessors ; and thus compleat what is already but too far advanced, the ruin of this once flourishing and powerful island.

We cannot here help expressing the deepest sorrow and surprize, that amidst the frequent alarms of an invasion, his majesty's faithful subjects should not be permitted to arm in their own defence.

Foreign troops called in and maintained at so great an expence, not only increase the difficulties, which the distressed state of our revenues from a long series of mismanagement labour under, but are a disgrace to a free and loyal people, ever ready to hazard their lives and fortunes in the service of their king and country.

With what concern ! then, with what indignation ! must our brave countrymen, thus ignominiously rejected by the unaccountable politics of the present time, behold every thing that is valuable, every thing that is dear to them, left, in a great measure, to the precarious defence of a mercenary army.

To remove, as soon as possible, this grievance, so severely felt by all, and so alarming to the real friends of liberty, should be your first and principal care : and as no method occurs to us so effectual for this purpose as a well regulated **MILITIA**, we conjure you to promote a law of this kind to the utmost of your power. Such a law, founded on truly British principles, will revive the drooping spirit of our constitution, encourage the natives of these kingdoms to exert their antient bravery, in retrieving the sinking glory of the British arms. Such a law, we hope, will not only hereafter render the introduction of foreign hirelings unnecessary, and thereby secure the great character of our liberties from any future violation, but provide us a protection, on all emergencies, against our perfidious enemies.

We must not omit this opportunity of reminding you, it is our sincere opinion, nothing can contribute more to

maintain our just rights and privileges, and preserve the excellent frame of our government in its genuine strength and purity, than the independency of our representatives ; which, we conceive, can be only effected by restoring TRIENNIAL PARLIAMENTS, and limiting the number of placemen and pensioners ; who, regardless of the true interests of their king and country, sacrifice every thing to their own private views.

Should these grievances be redressed, these salutary laws obtained (notwithstanding the gloomy prospect that at present surrounds us) may we not hope from the wisdom of our most gracious sovereign, and his paternal care so conspicuous on all occasions for the public welfare, to be once more a great and a happy people ?

Instructions from the bailiffs and magistrates of the  
CITY of LICHFIELD, to their representatives in  
parliament, Thomas Anson and Henry Vernon,  
Esqrs.

GENTLEMEN,

WE think it our indispensable duty to his majesty as his subjects, and our undoubted right as your constituents, to lay before you the following instructions, as a plan unavoidably necessary for your observance in parliament at the approaching sessions.

In the present critical and melancholy situation of our public affairs, we must exhort you to make strict and diligent parliamentary inquiry touching the application, or misapplication, of those immense and voluntary supplies granted the last session, and which have since been raised for the public service. That you will use your best endeavours to discover those who have been the cause of our fatal miscarriages in the Mediterranean, who have suffered the British flag to be dishonoured, and that important fortress of MINORCA (one of the fairest jewels in his majesty's crown) to be wrested out of our hands either through ignorance, negligence, perfidy, or cowardice. That you will likewise enquire into the notorious neglect and defenceless condition of our colonies abroad, and to know the reasons why they were not sooner and more effectually supported.

The

The nation cries aloud for justice, and is entitled to it. We shall expect, therefore, that you, on your parts, will afford your utmost assistance in bringing to justice all those (however dignified or distinguished) whose infamous conduct has been the occasion of these just and interesting complaints. These steps so necessary to be pursued, will prove the only means left in our hands to retrieve the credit and restore the trade of this injured and almost sinking nation.

We likewise take the liberty to advise, that a constitutional MILITIA, fitly established, will at all times best answer those purposes for which aliens have been lately imported: and, by such an establishment, Great Britain and all her antient rights will be vindicated and defended by Britons only, without the hazardous introduction of foreign mercenaries.

And lastly, that your endeavours may not be wanting at a proper juncture to restore to us that valuable part of our constitution, TRIENNIAL PARLIAMENTS.

We shall at present add nothing further; but seriously conjure you to pay a proper and constant attention to these seasonable instructions, and that every step you shall take in pursuit of them may be with the utmost deference and duty to the best of kings. A sincere piety and fervent zeal in support of our religion as by law established, a tender and affectionate disposition towards his British subjects, characteristics so conspicuous in his present majesty, shall always animate us, at the risque of our lives and fortunes, to defend his sacred person, his family, and government against all his enemies, whenever attacked.

Given under our common-seal the 12th day of November, 1756.

Instructions from the BOROUGH of IPSWICH, to  
Admiral Vernon and Samuel Kent, Esq; their  
representatives in parliament.

GENTLEMEN,

AFTER the example of other boroughs, we think it our duty to declare our sentiments on the present situation of public affairs, to you our representatives in parliament, that so you may understand what it is we expect from you in the approaching session; a session that

may possibly determine the fate of these kingdoms for many generations ! for now is there a concurrence of such alarming circumstances, as our fathers never saw ; each singly portending, and all jointly conspiring the ruin of our country ! and this under a prince not less honoured and esteemed abroad, as the head of the protestant interest, than revered and beloved at home, as the friend of liberty and the father of his people.

When our perfidious and most formidable neighbours were actually attacking us, we have seen those powers deserting our alliance, upon whose assistance we had reason most firmly to depend : we have seen one of these powers (forgetful of the protection which our sovereign, at an immense expence, so generously had granted her) ungratefully joining that same enemy against us, whom we had so lately prevented from crushing her.

We have seen another power (though indebted to British assistance for her very being) refusing to perform her stipulated engagements, and skulking under a pretended neutrality, that she may the better avail herself of our distress, by encroaching on our trade, and more easily supply our enemy with naval and military stores.

In this time of danger, instead of arming our countrymen, and enabling them to defend themselves, we have seen foreign subsidies introduced into these kingdoms at a vast expence, as if they were the properst troops to defend Britain, who have already declared, that though they take the pay, they will not be subject to the laws of Britain. If thus we provide for the defence of our mother-country, what have our foreign acquisitions to expect ?

We have seen our colonies in AMERICA abandoned, in a manner, to the ravages of the enemy. They have either been unassisted from hence ; or, what is worse, they have had only insufficient succours, under improper and injudicious leaders, who have fallen victims to their own inexperience and temerity.

In Europe we have seen one of our most valuable possessions, after repeated admonitions, most obstinately neglected : not succoured in time, then ineffectually ; and at length given up, as it were, to the enemy, by the cowardice or treachery of those who were sent to relieve it.

And what is most extraordinary, we have seen a British navy, not only superior to that of the enemy, but superior to any that great Britain herself ever fitted out before, loitering

ering away the whole year, not so much as attempting to strike any considerable offensive blow ; and, in fact, doing scarce any thing more, than what a few privateers might have done.

But dark and dreadful as our prospect is, we have yet one hope, and that well founded ; for we have the firmest reliance on the promises of our most gracious sovereign, ' that he will not fail to do justice upon any person who shall have been wanting in their duty to him and their country.' And when truth shall have made its way to the royal ear, we doubt not but the nation will obtain, not only a change of men, but a change of measures. And therefore, the better to facilitate this wished for event, and to save the sinking state, we earnestly desire ;

That you will endeavour to detect all those, who, by their treachery, their cowardice, or incapacity, have contributed to our distresses.

That you will introduce, or promote introducing, with all your power, a bill for TRIENNIAL PARLIAMENTS.

That you will endeavour to establish a well regulated and constitutional MILITIA, and thereby enable us to defend ourselves without the aid of foreign mercenaries.

That you will strictly enquire into the application of those immense sums, that were so chearfully granted last sessions.

And that you will do your utmost endeavour, that the British parliament may regard the interest of the British isles, independently of any unnatural connections on the continent of Europe.

We can with more chearfulness press this service upon ADMIRAL VERNON ; because, we flatter ourselves, that your authority, sir, and more especially in maritime affairs, may, with abler statesmen, have its due weight. If the directors of our navy had condescended to listen to that advice, which you so prudently suggested in parliament above a twelve month since, instead of despising it ; if instead of guarding only, almost with a childish timidity, against such attacks as were threatned but to amuse, and were not intended, they had sent a sufficient force in time, and strengthened those parts which your judgment and experience pointed out to them, those parts, where you said, you knew, without such succours, we were easily vulnerable, and therefore, you said (too truly !) there the danger really was : then sir, MINORCA had not been lost ;

lost ; then the enemy had not dared even to attempt the taking it ; then the British flag might have maintained its honour ; then our numerous fleet, if led on by fighting admirals, and if wisely appointed to proper stations, might still have been triumphant ; and then, we might at this day have been rejoicing over the spoils of the enemy, instead of lamenting our own losses, and ruefully bemoaning our own national disgrace.

Given under our common seal at Ipswich the 19th day of November, 1756.

Brecon, Nov. 20, 1756.

Instructions from the high sheriff, gentlemen, clergy, and freeholders of the COUNTY of BRECON, to the honourable Thomas Morgan, Esq; their representative in parliament.

SIR,

WE your constituents, assembled pursuant to a public advertisement, alarmed at the present unhappy state of this nation, cannot (consistent with our duty to his majesty, to ourselves, our country, and our posterity) silently behold these kingdoms on the brink of ruin ;—our excellent king (the true father of his people) disgraced ;—his power rendered contemptible abroad, and ineffectual (without foreign aid) to protect even these his dominions ;—our important fortresses (the defence of our trade) treacherously given up ;—our fleets (the real strength and greatest ornament of this nation) become despicable, unactive, and useless ;—our colonies shamefully neglected or betrayed ;—the immense sums so chearfully granted by parliament, idly squandered, or misapplied, notwithstanding the prodigious debt this nation at present groans under.

We therefore conjure you, by your affection to the best of princes, your duty to your distressed country, and the regard you have to posterity, to promote, to the utmost of your power, a strict parliamentary enquiry into the causes of all these our distresses, but more particularly the ignominious loss of MINORCA, and the unaccountable surrender of Oswego ; the first, an island of the utmost

import-

importance to the naval strength and trade of this kingdom ; the last, the strongest, and almost only barrier of our best and most flourishing colonies, and of the greatest consequence to our commerce and influence amongst the native Indians : that, upon such enquiry, whoever shall be found to be the authors of these our national misfortunes (however distinguished or exalted) either through treachery, cowardice, or neglect, they may receive such exemplary punishment as may deter others from offending in the like manner.

And, as luxury and gaming have introduced an almost universal venality and corruption, whereby every spark of private and public virtue is, we fear, nearly extinguished amongst us, we recommend to you to concur in passing such laws as may most effectually eradicate these growing evils, give countenance to religion and virtue, and re-establish the nation in its antient splendor and dignity ! such as — A law for more frequent parliaments ; — one that shall effectually suppress gaming and venality ; — and, particularly, a law for establishing a constitutional MILITIA, our most natural defence ; such a one as will not lessen our regard for religion, be most useful, and least burthensome to the community ; — and whatever other laws your own reflections may suggest to you as necessary to those great and salutary ends.

The following article of intelligence is taken from the Public Advertiser of December 3d. 1756.

**Y**ESTERDAY the king went with the usual state to the house of peers, and opened the sessions of parliament with a most gracious speech, in which his majesty acquainted the two houses, that he trusted that (under the guidance of divine providence) union and firmness in his affectionate people would carry him with honour through all difficulties, and finally vindicate the dignity of his crown, and its indubitable rights, against the antient enemy of these kingdoms : that the succour and preservation of AMERICA could not but constitute a main object of his attention and solicitude ; and that the growing dangers of our colonies from our late losses, demanded resolutions of vigour and dispatch : that an adequate defence at home behoved

T756  
v8890'

65-112  
Dec 1964  
Francis  
Edwards

( 56 )

behooved to have the chief place in his thoughts ; and that in this great view he had nothing so much at heart, as that no ground of dissatisfaction might remain in his people : that to this end, a NATIONAL MILITIA, regulated with equal regard to the just rights of his crown and people, might, in time, become one good resource in case of general danger ; and he recommended the framing of such a MILITIA : that he had directed the body of his electoral troops, which he had ordered hither at the desire of his parliament, to return to Germany ; relying, with pleasure, on the spirit and zeal of his people, in defence of his person and realm.

His majesty, like a true father of his people, afterwards recommends to parliament, to consider of proper provisions for preventing hereafter the sufferings of the poorer sort from the high price of corn ; and concludes with observing, that unprosperous events of war in the Mediterranean had drawn from his subjects signal proofs how dearly they tendered his honour, and that of his crown, and that they could not, on his part, fail to meet with just returns of unwearied care, and unceasing endeavours for the glory, prosperity, and happiness of his people.

The E. N. D.

EXCELSIOR  
EXCELSIOR  
EXCELSIOR  
EXCELSIOR